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Graham Greene, by
V. S. Pritchett:
Saturday Review, p6

THE TIMES

Lower import prices help to cut rate of inflation

Rate of inflation is now down to 9.5 per cent, the improvement is expected to continue for months. Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary for Industry and Consumer Protection, said last night the increase in the retail price index had remained in single figures throughout the year and into 1979. He said food prices rose by less than seven per cent last year, the lowest for five years.

Smallest rise in food cost for five years

Mr Hattersley said the rate of inflation was now down to 9.5 per cent, the lowest for five years. He said the increase in the retail price index had remained in single figures throughout the year and into 1979. He said food prices rose by less than seven per cent last year, the lowest for five years. He said the increase in the retail price index had remained in single figures throughout the year and into 1979. He said food prices rose by less than seven per cent last year, the lowest for five years.

Maudling's exemplary claim can go ahead

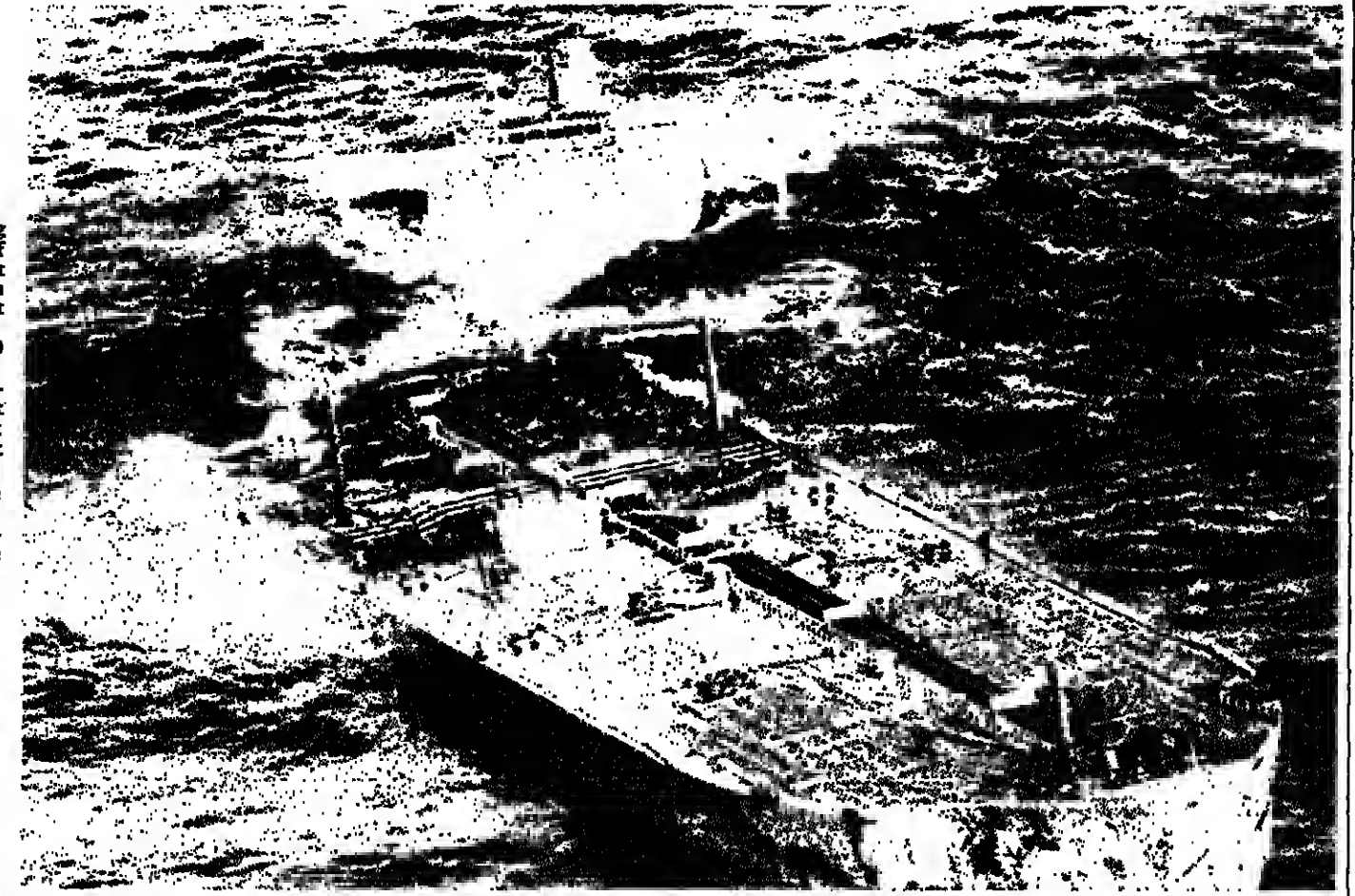
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Refugees among the dead as Israelis pound Lebanon

From Robert Fisk
Qaqaqat el Jisr, March 17
Israeli aircraft had been howling and wailing above us, high and unseen in the glare of the sun, for almost five minutes before the first great explosions blossomed among the houses just across the valley.
A Palestinian boy in a combat jacket and carrying a rifle—I guessed he was about 14 years old—had been standing grinning next to us among a cluster of houses, wondering perhaps whether it was our village or the hamlet to the east that would attract the wasteful attention of the Israeli pilots.
You could see the rows of houses over the small valley and the mosque basking in the sun, and we were looking right at it when the sound of power-

Black tide fouls beach in Brittany

From Ian Murray
Paris, March 17
An oil slick 18 miles long swept ashore along the coast of Brittany near Portisall tonight from the grounded and broken super tanker Amoco Cadiz. It threatened disaster.
The tanker carried 230,000 tons of fuel oil.
M Michel d'Ornano, Environment Minister, said tonight that a specialist team would attempt to pump the remaining oil out of the ship.
Vice-Admiral Couhades, the maritime prefect of Brest, had earlier introduced the new Polmar plan to try to protect the coast and fish from the huge pollution threat, but a black tide of oil was beginning to sweep in on miles of beaches this afternoon.
The shipwreck occurred one day short of the eleventh anniversary of the Torrey Canyon disaster but the Amoco Cadiz is carrying seven times more oil than was involved then. The wreck is also much closer to the shore than was the Torrey Canyon.
Trouble began for the Amoco Cadiz yesterday afternoon with rodder problems. The West German tug Pacific sailed from Brest to pick her up off Ushant on board had hardly been put on board when the tug broke in two. The tug broke in two, three times and the high seas and wind dragged the 109,700-ton tanker towards the rocks.
Around midnight the tanker went aground on the rocks of Portisall and a hole opened in one of the 15 cargo tanks. It was only shortly before the tanker



The supertanker Amoco Cadiz, broken in two in a storm off the Brittany coast.

hit the rocks that it was decided to implement the Polmar plan. Bad weather and the slow start meant that oil was oozing out of the hole in the ship's side before remedial measures were ready.
Naval helicopters were called in to evacuate the multinational crew and about 6 am today they were all off. Three hours later the grinding seas broke the ship in two just at the level of the rear superstructure.
The oil had affected five miles of the shoreline by noon and a thick oily smell was carried ashore over the fishing village.
The storm died during the day and fine weather is now forecast. This has allowed the Navy to send out seven ships to try to break up the oil with chalk and detergents. Work has started on barges to try to protect the fishing banks and oyster beds.
The Amoco Cadiz, which is registered in Monrovia, was built in Cadiz in 1973. She was the flagship of the Amoco Transport company, which is the

Man arrested in Rome as hunt for Moro kidnappers continues

Rome, March 17—Italian police tonight said they had arrested a man suspected of having taken part in yesterday's kidnapping of Signor Aldo Moro, the former Prime Minister.
They identified him as Gianfranco Moretti, aged 32, and said he had been charged with kidnapping and multiple homicide and taken to Regina Coeli prison, in Rome.
Despite a new threat that Signor Moro, who is chairman of the Christian Democratic Party, would be killed if 15 alleged Red Brigades terrorists are not released by 11 am tomorrow, the Government appeared to be standing firm against giving way to blackmail.
The approach was supported by most political parties and Signor Moro's wife also publicly stated that she opposed any idea of surrendering.
The judicial authorities in Turin said the trial of the 15 alleged terrorist leaders will go ahead as planned on Monday, although there was concern that jurors might stay away following threats which have already frightened off 150 potential jurors.
Among several anonymous telephone calls to the press today was one claiming that members of the West German Baader-Meinhof terrorist movement took part in the kidnapping.

Teachers may meet employers

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent
The teachers may resume pay negotiations on Monday after a proposal from the employers yesterday of a revised offer. But sanctions are likely to continue at least until the teachers have heard the offer.
In a statement last night the management panel of the Burnham Committee, the national negotiating body for teachers' pay, said it had told the teachers "that it would be prepared to resume negotiations at a joint Burnham Committee meeting on the basis of a revised offer within the pay policy guidelines provided there is a firm assurance from the teachers that the resumed negotiations would be intended to lead to an agreement."
An earlier draft, demanding that the teachers should suspend their sanctions before negotiations were resumed, was abandoned by the management panel, which includes representatives of the Department of Education and Science and the local authority.
Replying to the employers' offer, Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers and leader of the Burnham teachers' panel, said the teachers had been prepared all along to resume negotiations if the employers were ready to make a more realistic offer.
He said the teachers' panel would be prepared to meet the employers on Monday afternoon "if the basis of the meeting was that both sides were to negotiate freely with the intention of trying to reach an agreement." The teachers' panel would meet on Monday morning to review the position.
The difference in the wording of the two statements is important. The teachers do not like the implication that see in the employers' statement that whatever offer was made at the resumed negotiations must be accepted by the teachers. Hence Mr Jarvis's insistence on "free" negotiations.
If the National Union of Teachers believes after Monday's meeting that the offer is one that should be considered seriously it may decide to call a meeting of the union executive to decide whether to call off the sanctions.
Mrs Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Education and

Wholesalers' staff end ban that disrupted papers

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter
Wholesalers' staff last night ended the overtime ban that severely disrupted the distribution of national newspapers. About 2,500,000 copies were not distributed in parts of London and surrounding areas yesterday and more than a million copies were lost on Wednesday and Thursday.
The dispute, involving a thousand drivers and other wholesale workers, was over a claim for improved overtime payments in addition to a pay offer. The Federation of London

The case for investing in the Save & Prosper Property Fund

With the prospect of improved economic activity in 1979, and the continued fall in interest rates, it is our belief that the outlook for property investment is promising. In particular, recent months have already seen an increase in the level of rents paid in several areas of the property market, notably shops and industrial buildings. This increase should be of particular benefit to the Save & Prosper Property Fund given that, of its 58 properties, 14 have rent reviews during 1979, and a further 25 have reviews over the following two years.
Furthermore we continue to believe that the area most likely to benefit from the expected increase in economic activity is shop property, where the demand for prime space is likely to be strong. The Save & Prosper Property Fund is now 43% invested in quality shop properties and can therefore be expected to benefit from this situation.
In the property market generally, demand is for prime properties of which the supply is limited. As our Property Fund has concentrated on properties of this type, we believe that it is particularly well placed to benefit from current market conditions.
Further information
For full details of the Save & Prosper Property Fund please consult your professional adviser, contact one of our branches throughout Britain or complete and return the coupon below.
To: Customer Services Dept., Save & Prosper Group, 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP. Tel: 01-564 8889. Please send details of the Save & Prosper Property Fund. I am interested in lump-sum investment [] regular investment with life insurance [].
Name (BLOCK CAPITALS)
Address
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SAVE & PROSPER GROUP

House prices up by 1.4% in February

Halifax house price index shows that house prices rose by 1.4 per cent in February. The compiled last month from a sample of 17,000 house sales. There is a time-lag before the index reflects changes in the market. The index shows that house prices are rising faster than in January. The index figure is expected to rise further in March.

UK aid will finance six ships for India

Britain has completed arrangements to build six cargo ships for India. A grant of £51m plus an undisclosed subsidy will be made to the Indian government to allow the contract to proceed. The Opposition and the General Council of British Shipping have criticized the deal.

Carter warning to Russia over Africa

American concern about Russian military intervention in parts of the world like Africa was made clear by President Carter in a speech in North Carolina. He warned Moscow about the implications of the Soviet Union's "excessive" military growth.

Blasphemy appeal

Gay News and Mr Denis Lemon, its editor, lost their appeals against conviction for blasphemy in the Court of Appeal. Fines were upheld but a suspended jail sentence on Mr Lemon was quashed.

French second ballot

France is going to the polls tomorrow to decide the fate of 452 constituencies in last Sunday's first round. 63 seats were won outright. Both left and right will be relying on their supporters' discipline.

Woman MP fined

Mrs Audrey Wise, a Labour MP, was fined £20 with £25 costs by magistrates at Acton, London, for obstructing a policeman during picketing at the Grunwick plant. Miss Yana Minoff, daughter of the Maltese Prime Minister, is to be reported over the incident.

Cheap Atlantic fares

The British and American Governments have reached agreement on cheap Atlantic air fares. The agreement will take effect from today and extends cheap fares from the London-New York route to 13 other American cities.

Atom to Tokyo

Plans to build a new atomic power station in Japan have been given the go-ahead by the Japanese government. The station is to be built at the Fukushima site.

Plant bomb

Construction workers were killed when a powerful bomb exploded at a power plant in Bilbao. ETA, the militant Basque nationalist group, is believed to be responsible.

Asian Scouts

Groups for Asian boys are to be set up by the Scout movement. The groups will be based in London and other major cities.

Kinshasa: 13 opponents of President Mobutu

Opponents of President Mobutu of Zaire have been executed. The deaths were reported by the Zairean government.

Parliament

Parliament is expected to pass a new law on the environment. The law will give the government more powers to regulate pollution.

TV & Radio

TV and radio programmes will be shown in a new format. The change is part of a wider effort to improve the quality of broadcasting.

Clocks forward

British summer time begins at 2 am Greenwich Mean Time tomorrow. Clocks should be put forward one hour. Summer time will end on October 29.

How much would you pay to fly to America?

£69

£78
24 HOUR PURCHASE

£78
21 DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE

£206.50

£227.50

£427

British Caledonian

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Bottom Dollar Advance Purchase. £78 basic (£88 peak)
Book and pay 21 days in advance, tell us when you want to travel and we will notify you immediately of your flight according to our seat availability, so you know your booking is firm. Buy meals on board or bring your own. Return fare £182 basic, (£204 peak).

Bottom Dollar 24-hour Purchase. £78 basic (£88 peak)
Book within 24 hours of flight departure and for just £78 you can be sure of a seat. Buy meals on board or bring your own. (If you try for an 11th hour booking and don't get a seat, you can always trade up to a £78 ticket and be sure of your flight next day).

Executive. £206.50 basic (£241 peak)
Exactly like normal economy class travel, but at a useful saving because your firm booking cannot be changed without penalty and because you don't pay for any more than the there-and-back travel that you want.

You save money because we save paperwork. Full meals and cabin service. Return fares £413 basic, (£482 peak).

Executive Full Facilities. £227.50 basic (£265 peak)
Exactly like normal economy class. You may change your booking without any additional charge. Full meals and cabin service. Return fares £455 basic, (£530 peak).

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British Caledonian
We never forget you have a choice.

HOME NEWS

Community Land Act amendment with cut in development tax urged in surveyors' report

By John Young
The Community Land Act should be drastically amended, or better still repealed, a report published yesterday by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors recommends. Development land tax should be reduced to a maximum of 60 per cent.

The report is based on a detailed study by an institution working group and, inasmuch as it independently confirms many of the worst fears expressed by those concerned with land and development, it is certain to command wide attention. As Mr Frank Knowles, the institution's president, remarked yesterday: "We have no political axe to grind."

In analysing the evidence, the report's authors say they were struck by "the almost universal unpopularity" of the legislation. "In some cases, the unpopularity amounts to actual hostility, but we have been careful to disregard comment which is merely emotive or obviously politically biased, and to give due weight to any positive points put forward."

They conclude that there is little evidence of local authori-

ties using the Act to achieve "positive planning". The sharing of development gains between local authorities and the Treasury seems to have discouraged the acquisition of land for disposal.

Restrictions on the disposal of land, notably the 99-year limit on leases, has caused difficulties for both the public and private sectors. Both sectors have also criticized administrative difficulties and cumbersome procedures.

Acquisition of land by a public authority does not in itself lead automatically to development, the report points out. Development depends on either economic demand or social need, and in both cases the cost is crucial.

Local authorities, it is stated, should have the power to acquire land for development, and the cost of so doing should be underpinned by a system of betterment. But there is no case for requiring them to acquire all land for development.

"What matters is not who owns the land, but whether the proposed development is appropriate. No amount of legislative extra powers of acquisition

or control, can make development occur where there is no real demand, or where the financial resources are lacking."

If the Community Land Act is to be amended, essential changes should include the repeal of the provisions imposing a duty on local authorities to acquire land whether they wish to do so or not.

The stipulation that existing use value should in time become the basis of compensation should also be deleted, as that would lead inevitably to a two-tier market, and would also remove all incentive for the private sector to bring land forward for development.

The report concludes that the taxation of betterment gains now commands broad political support. But important changes in the Development Land Tax Act were necessary, including adequate allowance for the cost of holding land; the exemption of gains lawfully accrued before the Act took effect; and the removal of the anomaly whereby interest might become chargeable before a development gain is realized.

Wordsworth letters returned to Grasmere

By Alan Hamilton
A cache of correspondence between the poet William Wordsworth and his wife Mary, unearthed by a Carlisle stamp dealer and sold to an American university at Sotheby's last year, was yesterday handed over to its proper resting place, Wordsworth's museum at Dove Cottage, Grasmere.

Mr Jonathan Wordsworth, chairman of the Dove Cottage trustees and a great-great-nephew of the poet, accepted the six boxes of papers, regarded as an important literary find, from Professor Stephen Parrish of Cornell University, which maintains one of the largest Wordsworth collections in the world at its library at Ithaca, New York State.

Mr Wordsworth bought the papers at auction for £42,000, having first established that no British institution was in the market for them, but was subsequently refused an export licence. The university resold them for the same sum to the Dove Cottage museum, which paid for them out of a £200,000 appeal fund launched last April principally to renovate and extend the Grasmere museum.

The Wordsworth trustees were detained from bidding at auction last July because papers were expected to fetch as much as £100,000.

The letters demolish the image of Wordsworth as a cool, rather distant figure who found inspiration in his sister Dorothy than in his wife Mary. He is now shown as passionate and intimate in the correspondence, written between 1812 and 1820.

The collection also includes the last will and testament of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and, possibly the most valuable item, Coleridge's first draft of the poem that was to become his *Ode on Dejection*.

The appeal fund is now three quarters of the way towards its target, and much of the remaining money is used to create a new and bigger museum in a barn next to the cottage. The new collection of papers will then be put on display in the building.

Man in the news: a lawyer's lawyer Judge who has successfully headed sensitive inquiries

By Marcel Berlins
Lord Pearson, whose report on civil liability and compensation for personal injury was published on Thursday, is one of the few judges to have been entrusted by governments of both parties with inquiries into issues of sensitivity and potential political consequences, and to have emerged unscathed and trusted. Considering that the field in which he was most frequently called on to act was industrial relations, that is no mean feat.



Lord Pearson: Technical mastery of subject.

His run of tricky interventions in the more obscure law courts of inquiry into the dispute in the electricity supply industry. He achieved national fame when, in 1966, he looked into the conditions of seamen, after the crippling strike.

His proposals for reform of some of the more obscure laws and practices governing the employment of seamen received the rare honour of being welcomed by both the employers and the National Union of Seamen.

Lord Pearson followed that success by presiding over an inquiry into a dispute in the civil air transport industry in 1967, and then, in 1968, took on the particularly sensitive task of trying to reconcile opposing views over the question of British Steel's refusal to recognize trade union rights for negotiating purposes.

In 1970 maritime squabbles occupied him again when he headed the inquiry into the dock dispute.

Lord Pearson's judgments from the bench may be remembered more for their solid dependability than their flair and excitement. He was a lawyer's lawyer and judge, and his judgments showed technical mastery of the subject which sometimes manifested itself in print with a touch of pedestrianism. His reputation among

lawyers is that of an extremely pleasant, unshowy man. Now 78 (without looking it), he was born in Canada (he included the name of his birthplace, Minnesota, in his title), the son of an English barrister who had emigrated there. Colin Pearson came to England as a child and was educated at St Paul's before going on to take up a classical scholarship at Balliol College, Oxford.

Called to the Bar in 1924, he made steady rather than startling progress. Attached to the Treasury Solicitor's Department during the war, he took silk in 1949 and two years later was appointed a High Court judge. In 1960 he became President of the Restrictive Practices Court. The next year he was promoted to the Court of Appeal, and from 1965 to 1974 was a Lord of Appeal.

In 1963 Lord Pearson became Chairman of the Law Reform Committee, and for the next 10 years was intimately involved in the reform movement that swept through the law and its institutions during that decade.

Front gives up fight for HQ

The National Front gave up its fight in the High Court yesterday to keep its headquarters at Teddington, London. It abandoned an appeal against the refusal of the Secretary of State for the Environment to allow the premises to be used as offices.

Mr Richard Verrall said the party had plans to set up their headquarters somewhere else.

The London Borough of Rich-

mond had opposed the use of the premises in Connaught Road, Teddington, by the Front. After a public inquiry last April an Environment Department inspector found that the Front's use of the premises could lead to political demonstrations, which could have disruptive effects on the peace and quiet of the area.

By consent, the judge dismissed the appeal and awarded costs against the Front.

Scottish Labour backing for devolution

From Ronald Faux
Dunoon

The Scottish Council of the Labour Party yesterday overwhelmingly endorsed the Government's devolution proposals at its annual conference in Dunoon, and has decided to attempt to have the use of party funds during the referendum campaign.

Any uncertainty among the delegates was briskly dispelled by Mr Donald Dewar, the prospective parliamentary candidate in the Glasgow, Carscadden by-election, who told them that if the party was to be left with any credibility in Scottish politics, an amendment banning the use of party funds in the referendum campaign must be rejected.

An amendment proposed by

West Lothian constituency, which would have banned the use of party funds and allowed free vote, did not say that individuals should follow their own consciences, Mr Dewar said. It disallowed the use of party funds to campaign for a policy that had overwhelming support by the conference, the Government and the Scottish Labour Party.

"IUC," Mr Dewar said, "is to be used as a smokescreen for something which would be a recipe for disaster," he said.

The conference repeated its preference for having a question on independence included in the referendum. There was a clear belief that the Labour Party in Scotland would benefit from having the exact strength of the independence lobby measured.

Mr Tam Dalyell, MP for

'Cowardice' of the West denounced

By George Clark

Britain's complacency in face of an immense threat from the Soviet Union is even more frightening than the disarmament of the 1930s, Mr Peter Walker, Conservative MP for Worcester, said in his constituency last night.

"On every one of our sea routes the Soviet Navy is dominant," he said. "There is not a major British port that is not perpetually covered by a Soviet submarine with nuclear weapons." The West, Mr Walker added, was in a perpetual posture of calculated cowardice.

"We have a Britain almost incapable of speedy mobilization, a Britain unable to protect its sea routes, a Britain putting far less into military research than is necessary, and a Britain with armed Services demoralized by bed pay."

Unless Britain and its allies were aroused, the Soviet Union would have the power to hem-mell the world within a decade.

Mr Walker demonstrated that if Mr Margaret Thatcher is looking for a new and energetic member for her front-bench team on defence, then he is her man.

But Mr Walker was a leading campaigner for Mr Edward Heath in the Conservative leadership election of 1975, and since her election Mrs Thatcher has shown no inclination to invite him back into the shadow administration.

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The collection also includes the last will and testament of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and, possibly the most valuable item, Coleridge's first draft of the poem that was to become his *Ode on Dejection*.

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Sealink charters rival's ship to salvage sailings

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

British Rail are chartering a ship to replace one of its ferry ferries, Townsend-Thoresen, to salvage their April sailings from Weymouth.

They have been left short of a strike at the dry dock, where the Earl Godwin is undergoing its annual overhaul. The Earl Godwin, which shares the Weymouth-Channel Islands route, was due to follow the Earl Godwin into the same dock.

To add to the difficulties, the Maid of Kent, which was due to start the summer service to Cherbourg on Monday, is still undergoing repair. British Rail have announced that Sealink sailings to Cherbourg have been postponed provisionally until April 10.

Would-be bank robber's disguise was too good

Colin Rich, disguised himself with three stocking masks and a scarf wrapped round his face and walked into the National Westminster Bank in Station Parade, Crickehowell, London, only to find that he could hardly see through his disguise, Mr Merlyn Bourne, for the prosecution, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mr Rich found his way to the cashier's desk and, pulling an object from his pocket, ordered the staff and customers to lie flat on the floor and told the cashier to hand him money. But she and other staff saw that he was brandishing his spray.

He then ran empty-handed from the bank, and police found him soon afterwards hiding behind a car. He told them: "I just wanted to get rich."

Mr Rich, aged 27, of Blenheim Gardens, Crickehowell, admitted the attempted robbery on January 16. He was put on probation for three years and recommended for psychiatric treatment by Mr Recorder Percival, QC.

Lady Listowel's appeal

Judith Lady Listowel is to appeal against a High Court order to pay libel damages to Dr Milton Obote, the deposed President of Uganda, and two of his former colleagues.

Leading article, page 15

WEST EUROPE



Anti-terrorist policemen, wearing bullet-proof jackets and carrying sub-machine guns, patrol a Rome street.

Ominous 50-year-old parallel to Moro kidnapping seen in Italy

From Peter Nichols
Rome, March 17

Police in Rome believe that the kidnappers of Signor Aldo Moro, the former Italian Prime Minister, may still be hiding near to his own home. There may be some substance for this view but it looks somewhat ingenuous.

A quarter of an hour passed between the killing of the five bodyguards which preceded the abduction of Signor Moro and the arrival of the first police car. In that time, the kidnappers could have been well on their way.

Their sense of security is suggested today by the fact that a second car used in the attack has been found close to where the first one was found. It was almost certainly brought back during the night to the area by the kidnappers to show that they felt totally in command of the situation.

Life on the surface has returned to normal after the end of a brief general strike called in protest at the kidnapping. The new government has been given its vote of confidence in Parliament in record time. Tonight the secretaries of the parties supporting the government will include the communists, met to try and devise measures to meet the situation.

The Ministry of the Interior has issued a series of 20 photographs of known members of the Red Brigades terrorist group who are fugitives from justice.

Eighteen of them are men and two women. Their organization has changed substantially since the arrest of Renato Curcio and his other founders who are on trial in Turin.

Signor Curcio already looks a personification of the past. He is a man of strict Roman Catholic upbringing and some of his revolutionary fanaticism is said by lay commentators to be the frightening result of a powerful, if unbalanced, religious temperament applied to the immediate problem of inducing an apocalyptic political situation now.

Analysis of the old leaders, however, pales before the activities of their successors who are widely believed to be following consciously or unconsciously a design which is much broader than the Italian scene.

The nearest political parallel to Signor Moro's kidnapping may well turn out to be the kidnapping and subsequent murder of a century ago of Giacomo Matteotti, the Socialist leader who was the firmest opponent of fascism's rise to power.

He was abducted and killed in June, 1924 by fascists and the failure of other democratic politicians to react effectively to this permitted fascist dominance to be institutionalized and murder to become accepted as a part of the conduct of politics.

It would be a mistake to suppose that the reactions to the kidnapping have been all of a heroic and properly democratic kind, as much of the speech making would suggest. Signor Moro is undoubtedly the most respected of the older leaders of the Christian Democratic Party which has dominated the Italian political scene for 30 years. But he shares the blame in the view of some sections of public opinion, for the country's decline.

It was not difficult after the first announcements of his kid-

napping to hear people, and especially young people, expressing a certain satisfaction. In the more considered assessment, the general strike undoubtedly had its psychological effect. Moments came when, in the past, the Italian people, and it was an impressive moment when such shops as were open in Rome began dropping their shutters as the full import of the crisis came home.

It would equally be wrong to suppose that the political system has yet responded as well as it should to the situation. The new government won its vote of confidence in record time. But even individual ministers are already complaining privately that the occasion has been missed to provide a shocked country with a decisive lead.

This government, after all, has overwhelming support in Parliament and includes Communist backing. So far, it is fair to say that it has not found an effective way of expressing the feelings of the public.

The sense of deep tragedy is, however, never far away. It is turned tonight when two of the country's older statesmen, Senator Giuseppe Saragat, the former President of the Republic, and Signor Ugo La Malfa, the Republican leader, talked in a televised interview of what should be done.

Senator Saragat believed that special units of the armed forces could be used. Signor La Malfa called for special legislation to deal with what he described as a state of war and convince the public that the Government was adopting adequate measures to deal with the emergency.

'Tactical flexibility' helps Communists in north

From Edward Mortimer
Lille, March 17

M. Pierre Mauroy, the Mayor of Lille, who is chairman of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais regional council and Number Two in the French Socialist Party, was very much at home last night.

He was addressing a mainly working-class audience in the theatre of Anzin, a Socialist-governed municipality in the suburbs of Valenciennes, in the heart of his native Département du Nord.

He spoke without notes and without hesitation, knowing from long experience the kind of speech that this audience would want to hear.

There was a romantic evocation of the great struggles of left against right in France over the past hundred years, a blistering denunciation of the inequalities of present-day France and the regime responsible for them, and a reminder of some of the solid benefits which the left has pledged to introduce as soon as it comes to power—minimum wage at 2,400 francs (£260) a month, retirement at 60 and a fifth week of paid holiday.

When you take that fifth week of the Mauroy concluded, to loud applause, "send a postcard to your deputy, Alain Boccquet."



The French Elections

Mauroy, easily the most down-to-earth among the Socialist leaders, is well aware of this and has argued against his own party's economists in favour of nationalizing the steel industry, so far without success. He knows that whatever the economic arguments, nationalization is popular among the steelworkers and their families who see it as a guarantee of job security.

In this area both parties have deep working-class roots and the rivalry between them is old and bitter. That is why M. Mauroy went to Anzin last night at the invitation of the local Communists, and spoke from a stage platform as M. Gustave Amand, a member of the Communist Party's Politburo.

To hear the two politicians' speeches you would hardly think there had been even a hint of a quarrel between their two parties during the last six months, let alone that until last week the Socialists were the object of harsh Communist propaganda barages.

I remarked on this after the meeting to M. Mauroy. "Yes," he replied, "they have an extraordinary tactical flexibility."

That's one problem you don't have in Britain," he added. There was no mistaking the hint of regret.

Mauroy, the sole candidate of the left in Sunday's decisive second ballot in the ninth district of the Nord (Valenciennes West and Saint Amand), is not a Socialist. He is the secretary of the local Communist Federation, and the majority of the audience likewise were Communist supporters.

Anzin itself may be Socialist, but the surrounding area, greatly affected by unemployment at pits have closed and the Unisior steel works has moved northward to Dunkirk.

Left and right pin hope of discipline of supporters

From Ian Murray
Paris, March 17

President Giscard d'Estaing is to speak to the French nation on television on Wednesday evening, it was announced today. By then the full results of the election will be known, and he will have had time to decide what they mean for his future role as President.

He is to spend this weekend at his estate at Anthon, but, as last week, he will return to Rambouillet on Sunday evening to hear the results as they come in.

Since 68 of the 491 seats were won outright in the first round of the elections, voters in the remaining 423 constituencies will be going to the polls on Sunday. There are only 839 candidates left and the choice has never been more limited in recent times.

There are only two candi-

dates, one from the left and one from the right, and 409 of the constituencies in five others that are only between the two parties.

There are eight constituencies where there is a candidate, since none others, obtained a sufficient proportion of the stand, so three out of four Socialists. (Get the picture?) A Republic cure of winning them.

In only one constituency, Finistère (Lannuiz), to be a three-cornered Government parties, left so narrow on the lot, all will be decided round on how two sides can rely on discipline of their support

County draws up emergency rabies measures

Kent County Council has drawn up a comprehensive emergency plan to deal with rabies.

If rabies was confirmed or there was reasonable suspicion of an outbreak, so order would be served defining the infected area. Owners of cats and dogs would have to keep them indoors, stray animals could be impounded, sports which attract racing, point-to-point hunting and shooting could be banned and, in extreme cases, orders would be given for the destruction of foxes.

EEC wine plans 'no help'

By Hugh Clayton

Changes proposed for EEC wine rules would make Britain pay for market support from which it would not benefit, the Common Select Committee on European Legislation said yesterday.

The committee studies rules suggested by the European Commission, and was examining a new campaign to grapple with the unwieldy wine economy of the Community.

One change would be to set up a European joint-trade table wine organization on which Britain would have one of 18 votes. Another would be to enlarge market support so that if

a surplus pushed prices down producers would have to take up to half of their output off the market for as much as six months.

The commission also wants interest rate subsidies for buyers who pay high prices for wine and distillation aids to persuade producers to dispose of cheap stocks and produce wine of higher quality.

United Kingdom wine producers would not be affected by the proposed amendments, since the market support regime applies only to the major wine-producing countries of the Community, the committee said.

Socialist mayor dies in Black Forest air crash

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, March 17

One of the most experienced and senior members of the French Socialist party, M. André Bouloche, died yesterday when his light aircraft in which he was travelling crashed into a mountainside in the Black Forest during a sudden snowstorm.

M. Bouloche, the mayor of Monthléry in the Doubs, seemed sure to be re-elected as the constituency's deputy in Sunday's elections.

Vice-president of the socialist and radical group, he served as a minister during the fourth

and fifth Republics at irregular intervals with time resistance, which his capture and imprisonment in Ansbach and the He joined the *Jeune Garde* in 1939. His flight yesterday board a Piper Apache constituency area for the Doubs area, he was in clear weather for flight but ran into storm and crashed. Flashes of mountain miles south-east of Monthléry.

Barred cellist demands public trial in Soviet Union

From Our Own Correspondent
Moscow, March 17

Mstislav Rostropovich, the cellist, and his wife, Galina Vishnevskaya, the opera singer, have written an open letter to President Brezhnev asking for a full public trial anywhere in the Soviet Union.

The couple learnt in a television news report this week that they had been stripped of their Soviet citizenship for activities harmful to the prestige of their country.

At a press conference here

this afternoon the cellist read out the letter, which says the couple have been "morally shot in the back on a trumped-up charge, depriving us of the right to return to our homeland." Like many other great Russian artists, they had been thrown on the junk heap.

The letter points out that their only "fault" was to give shelter to the writer, Solzhenitsyn. As a result they had been victimized, concerts were cancelled and they were boycotted

by radio and television. Because of this they had to apply for an extended travel permit. "The tears we shed at home were not enough for you, you have found a way to harm us even here."

It continues: "We demand a court trial in any venue in the USSR at any time, the sole condition being that the trial must be public. If you do not respond then perhaps the colour of shame will come to your cheeks."

Mr Rostropovich convinced that the Russian things are a little there."

Impressario's call: M. Victor Hochberg, impresario, who has Rostropovich's agent, called on a member to cancel a concert in Moscow. Rostropovich's agent, however, refused to accept the cancellation.

Japan mobilizes police

Peter Hazelhurst
Japan, March 17

Japan mobilized 15,000 police to guard the new Narita international airport 41 miles east of Tokyo, which is to be open on March 30, under the threat of subversive demonstrations and bands of armed riot police to converge on the gleaming 1,500m complex today as farmers and radical groups threatened to sabotage the international flights drawn from the crowded 15th March week month.

The farmers and the students, estimated to number 30,000, have stalled for seven years the opening of the new airport, which was completed at an original cost of \$560 million in 1971. At the cost of maintaining the huge unused white elephant amounted to \$60,000 a day early this year, Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Prime Minister, announced that the airport will open by the end of March.

In seven years of bitter clashes, four policemen and one demonstrator have died and many others were injured as the Government tried more than 10

airport op



Arab girl blithely goes on making coffee | Security Council

deaths of key witnesses.

combat the physical effects of

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Lichtenthaler and Whistler (1973). The total chlorophyll content was determined by the method of Arar and Cook (1980). The carotenoid content was determined by the method of Lichtenthaler and Whistler (1973). The total carotenoid content was determined by the method of Arar and Cook (1980). The total protein content was determined by the method of Lowry et al. (1951). The total lipid content was determined by the method of Bligh and Dyer (1959). The total carbohydrate content was determined by the method of Dubois and Gilles (1950). The total nucleic acid content was determined by the method of Burton (1956). The total ash content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total moisture content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total dry matter content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total organic acid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total alkaloid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total saponin content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total tannin content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total flavonoid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total phenol content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total terpenoid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total steroid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total glycoside content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total alkaloid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total saponin content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total tannin content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total flavonoid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total phenol content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total terpenoid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total steroid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total glycoside content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990).

Journal of Management Education 30(6)

Saturday Review

Graham Greene into the light

by V S Pritchett

Where is Graham Greene now and what is he up to? We've been asking these questions for years. The most accomplished of English novelists has been making only fitful visits to London in the past 10 years and, anyway, in the manner of the old *facotite* spies, he is a man of disappearances in mysterious company, usually simply his own, and with a special taste for long air flights. The last I had heard of him was that he had turned up with Brigadier General Omar Torrijos at the recent Panamanian Conference in Washington—strange for one who has never been a conference man. Was it some lark, some personal affection or whim that drew him there? He flew back, of course, by Concorde—how many novelists get that invite?—and he was in Belfast not exactly a pleasure dome now, for a cold whiff of rain—but he might as well have been in Asuncion drinking with his Honorary Consul, or in Cuba, Haiti, Hawaii, Saigon, the Ganges, his house in Annapolis, or with the Third Man in Vienna or the Lawless Roads of Mexico at the time of the persecution of the Church.

Reporters get about like this: English novelists very rarely. If he does settle for a month or two, he will be etched in a flat in Paris or Antibes, and that is where I caught him. On the telephone the flat, conspiratorial, laughing voice which, of itself, makes him the best company I've known in the past 40 years, welcomed me as usual with a quotation. He'd just found the right words in Conrad for his state of mind. He had done no work for weeks—he was waiting for his new novel, *The Human Factor*, to appear—and he felt the leaden weight of an irremediable idleness. Writers love words: the word "irremediable" spoken with his curious near-French "r" and its overtones of glee in being beyond hope, was Greene in vintage condition. He is a quarter Scotish: Robert Louis Stevenson was his maternal cousin and the Balfours were close to his family; he has a D.Lit from Edinburgh if he has also one from Cambridge and is a Companion of Honour. For a writer, only the Order of Merit could be better.

Still, he is a Londoner through and through. I see him as one of those tall, long-legged Englishmen wearing the dark grey suits of club members and a look of misanthropic anonymity common to members of the professional class, coming out of White's, the Reform or the Athenaeum. They are the natives of that state-within-a-state which lies between Pall Mall, St James's and Albany—where he used to live—and which extends to the rather more bohemian neighbourhood of Covent Garden. On the way down if you dropped into Rex's Restaurant, you might see him lunching with his brother, Sir Hugh Greene.

The only difference between Greene's London appearance and his Antibes look was that he was wearing a discreetly modish casual brown suit, something between a track suit or battle dress, fastening with a drawstring cord at the neck. When we met, we swore we had not changed at all over the years and hoisted about our ages and good health, as old codgers in their servitudes do. We had reached the decade when every birthday had better strike a note of farce, especially in my case. I am four years older than he.

One day, years ago in his rooms at King's College, Cambridge, E. M. Forster said to me: "My furniture rather let me down when the television people came." Greene said much the same: "I'm in that ugly block near the Marina." I must say I had imagined that the novelist who had lived in Albany would be living now in one of those fine and rosy old houses on the ramparts of old Antibes looking down at the sea and the gardens where the sly old men of the town play boules all day. It was strange to find him in this huge modern block, haunting its bombastic concrete balconies. The old harbour used to come right up to the walls when I took the place. It was very nice until they built this monstrous basin for the luxury yachts and cruisers. We used to be quiet. In the winter of the year, the flashy boats and ships are packed into the Marina by the scores. Marina—what a word! In the season, the fumes and noise of boat engines, and of the barbeques and noisy parties, must be hellish. Graham James noise and said he leaves when it gets bad.

The flats are spacious and

functional, exactly the place for a man living and working a good deal alone. The sitting room where he worked is as simple as an office. Close to the large ceiling-to-floor window was a small table with nothing on it but a toy woolly animal—a squirrel or rabbit, perhaps—two or three folders, a lamp and nothing else. "Doesn't it tire your eyes working straight into the light, and the blinding white paint of the yacht?"

"You get used to it," he said. "What tires my eyes is continuously looking at my characters."

On the pale, dun-coloured walls of the room are a few pictures of the bleak and sensitive kind, one abstract exploding with colour and a droll print of Leonardo making his ascent in a balloon in 1783. On the other two walls there are, I would say, 2,000 books on the white shelves, in very orderly rows, many complete editions. He has several thousand more in his flat in Paris. (He keeps his poetry there; he can quote large chunks of Clough, Browning and Hardy. Greene is not only a writer and a reader, he used to be the director of The Bodley Head, and knows his titles, dates and first editions. He is more interested in the trade of literature than most authors are and is something of a collector of rare editions. He has, for example, "collected" a long line of the famous little red Nelson's Sevenpenny hardbacks we used to buy about 1910 and feels as sentimental about them as I do. He is very proud of a miniature attack on his Haitian novel and himself, which the Haitian government sent out to all their embassies, in a large splashy volume.)

Very important for him, when he was a boy, were books of adventure and romantic travel. Our generation were brought up on Ballantyne's *Coral Island*, Sherlock Holmes, John Buchan's *Greenmantle* and Rider Haggard's *She and King Solomon's Mines*. The books that really started Greene writing were the once famous *Viper of Milan* by Marjorie Bowen, a tale of Italian intrigue. Intrigue got him and it still does. The English novel is rich in excellent minor writers: the wicked Saki and a favourite book of Evelyn Waugh's, *Fanny Hill*. *Viper* was his. What he lacks, as many critics call these "minor writers"? We all remember these writers, but Greene remembers them with passion. He is on to Wells's middle period now: "very satisfying".

The only object I missed from Greene's earlier collecting days at the bottom of St James's was the schoolboyish collection of miniature whiskeys and brandies carefully set out on a shelf—perhaps they went down the throat of that villainous police officer when your man in Havana was grilling bottles with him. But Graham did bring out a bottle of 100-proof gin which we both looked at with awe and did not, thank God, open.

The son of a headmaster, Graham has a background as literary as that other traveller, Kipling, whom he does not much care for, except as a poet. The man familiar with whisky, priests and the broths of the tropical shantytowns and wilderness has filled his loneliness with good reading in English and French. The novelist who has a nose for the world's trouble spots and especially for their underside, is also a particular literary critic. He begs his copy, as do many English writers do, as a reviewer for the serious weeklies.

He does not like Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn very much, except for August 1914. He thinks the Danish story *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* which started Solzhenitsyn's fame is too conventionally communist "Socialist realism" (which he cannot bear), and the Gings book too myopically "Stalinist". Among the modern South American novelists he professes a liking for the Chilean Garcia Marquez of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, but he does respect Marquez.

Often in the next three days he got up to pull out a book from his shelves. He likes mooching round the book-craze market on Thursdays in Antibes, looking for out-of-the-way things. It is one of the rituals for guests to sign their names in the most unlikely of Birthday Books, the Henry James Album—circa 1910—and I was landed with an incomprehensible quotation from James's *The Golden Bowl*. We had to try to clear up that "irremediable" passage of Conrad's: he returned to it several times.

At 73, Graham is thin and

has the shyness of genially subversive men. His grey hair is short and his head bald here and there. If there are deep rings under his eyes, the eyes are blue, red-rimmed, innocent and parying—the eyes of a fence. The florid gammons on the pale face are now more sculpted, nothing slack there. For the first time I noticed his hands: they are strong and narrow, as capable as a craftsman's, and the fingers are extraordinarily powerful and long. The voice is as it always was: it has grit in it; there is the pleasant sound of a good razor blade on a beard when a barber is at work—a Sweeney Todd, but on holiday. The human nose usually conveys that he is living an independent life of his own: his is neat, pink at the tip and evidently alert for textual error.

He is a man of the fixed habits of one who lives a good deal alone. Breakfast is quickly over, he picks up a pen and starts work soon after 8 a.m., spends the next two or three hours slowly writing his daily 200 words—only 200 now he complains, it used to be 400. "Do you find one gets slower?" Two or three years to finish a book? (I do.) He slips out to a restaurant—his favourite one is closed for January—for the main meal of the day, sometimes with one or two of his French friends. He eats very little. At the other meal, probably he will simply eat a little pâté at home. At this cold time of the year, he drinks Kir rather than pastis and, of course, wine. The meat at Antibes is only so-so, but duck, rabbit and fish are good, especially the *loup de mer* grilled with cheese. He would really prefer a good English chop, and he is rather off garlic nowadays.

One looks out of the window over the Marina and farther away to the open sea and the ramshackle resort, strip, with its shantylike lots, its high pyramid blocks of flats, to the snow on the mountains beyond. "Do you miss London?" "No. The climate is humid

here but I clear out when the season gets crowded and noisy. I can't bear noise." He once poured a pall of water over a motor cyclist who was revving up outside the flats and was surprised by the language that came back.

"You prefer the foreign police," he cries to the English ones.

"English parliamentary politics don't interest me, but my new book is set in London. One makes small irritating mistakes. I mentioned buses going down St James's when now they go up, I had to put that right." "Why do you travel so much?" "To kill boredom." Boredom? The most ingenious, inventive and exciting of our novelists, rich in exactly etched and moving portraits of real human beings and who understands the tragic and comic ironies of love, loyalty and belief—is he really bored? Or is he putting on a defensive mask? I know him as an affectionate and interested man.

I think Greene feels the boredom of all writers who live by their imagination. You finish your story, the people vanish, emptiness flows in. He travels to repopulate himself and he has an appetite for experience and especially for out-of-the-way people. For example, he is an astute collector of picaresque priests. In the last two or three years he has been going to the north of Spain with an eccentric cleric whose chief interest is in discovering peculiar vintages of white wine. They have a rollicking time.

I would say the romantic feel-

ings for boys' books has been lasting in that it has made him seek for the grim reality con-

cealed in the dream of adventure. What is behind misanthropy in his personal life? An unhappy home, perhaps? Not at all. But, as he says in his autobiography, *A Sort of Life*, he did find he had a double mind when he was a boy. His happy home was in the well-known school where his father was the tolerant and cultivated headmaster, but when the son passed through the baize door that separated the hearts from the school corridors, he felt he was dramatically marked. Was he a Quisling? Or a double agent? He found himself torn between loyalties and therefore often lonely and in despair.

Now, he says, he is probably a manic depressive. Many writers are, the profession is very hard on the nerves; one catches fire at the beginning of the day and burns out by the end of it. The paradox is that he sprang out of a jolly and very intelligent family, indeed a whole clan of congenial successful Greenses, all very close and proud of one another.

"There is often a child in your novels who finds himself exposed to pain or is the witness of corruption—the private detective's son, for example, in *The End of the Affair* or the boy of *The Basement Room*."

"I made a point of visiting a private detective's office," he told me years ago. To see for himself is necessary to him.

"I don't really like children. Even when I was a child I could not stand other children's voices." Still, he has written books for children.

And a fine essay of his called *The Lost Childhood* shows childhood was as important to him as it is to most artists. He

quotes from a poem of AE

which goes to his own heart:

In ancient shadows and

twilights

Where childhood has strayed

The world's great sorrows were

born

And his heroes were made

In the lost boyhood of Judas

Christ was betrayed.

At Oxford, he joined the

Communist Party for a few

weeks. There was a serious but

far from fatal error. The

occupying French were trying

to turn the Palestine into a

separate Republic in the 1920s,

and the oppressed Germans

were in revolt. He and Cland

Cockburn offered their services

to the German Embassy, and

the naive youths were scared

when they ran into a German

intelligence office across the

Channel. Still, foreign journeys

assured. He made an attempt

to get a job in China—there is

a businessman inside him—

dreamed of becoming a consul

or joining "the Nigerian

Navy". In the end, he fell to

the usual end of writing

provincial journalism and writing

a romantic novel, never

finished, on the Curliar wars.

"The result of reading Conrad

and Carlyle's *Life of John*

Sterling, the best book Carlyle

ever wrote," he says loyally.

A far more decisive "jour-

ney abroad" for a not-at-all-

religious young Englishman was

his conversion to Roman Catho-

licism: not from conviction at

first, but because he fell in

love with a Catholic girl and

eventually married her. He was

deeply in love and he thought

that sharing the same religion

with his wife would ensure his

happiness. He and his wife

went romantically off to a cat-

in the country. They had

two children.

But the loner and the writer

was too restless for the bonds

of family life, and, after 20

years the marriage broke up. Precisely why—he thinks, right-

ly—is his private business. One

can only guess that the need

for what Benjamin Constant

called "the wilderness of any

liberty" is very strong in him

and that his work is his over-

whelming passion. Once or

twice, he has said, he has half-

wished he could have had the

dedication of a priest or even

to have been a "sinister-turned-

salut".

But, in his honest way, he

now says his conversion was

really a sort of gamble which

God and the Church. His actual

induction into the Church

depressed him. He found him-

self making secret reservations

as he made his vows. The theo-

logy had its fascination, for he

hated Calvinism, as his hero

Robert Louis Stevenson has

done: it was enjoyable for the

Protestant to feel now that the

English Catholics had been

"disloyal" and "traitors" and

that, morally, English Protest-

ants put the satisfactions of

conscience, right from wrong,

before the Catholic propensities

with good and evil. Also,

one must remember, only 10

per cent of the English popula-

tion is Catholic—he knows

that 10 per cent is a lot—and

a large proportion of those are

Irish. Louis Stevenson has

called, Greene had chosen a

minority. This cheered him, and

in his early years as a

Catholic writer, he was very

much the fighting convert. But

the lasting result of his con-

version can be seen in a letter

he wrote to me in 1945—pub-

lished in a correspondence be-

tween his great friend Elisabeth

Bowen and myself.

"You remember Tom Paine's

apothegm, 'We must take care

to guard even our enemies

against injustice', and it is

there that the writer has great

opportunities and greater obli-

gation than the chemist or the

estate agent. . . . Now the

State is invariably ready to con-

fuse, like a schoolmaster, jus-

tice with retribution and isn't

it possibly the cynic's role

to act as the devil's advocate,

to elicit sympathy and a mea-

sure of understanding for those

outside State sympathy? . . .

It has always been in the in-

terest of the State to re-

strict psychological walls to re-

strict human sympathy, to en-

courage catall — Galleani,

Papist, Crophhead, Fascist. Bot-

tom once again the importance of

the virtue of disloyalty. . . . Loyalty

confines us to — accepted

opinions: loyalty forbids us to

comprehend sympathetically

loyalty encourages us to round

experimentally through every

human mind, it gives to the

novelist the extra dimension of

sympathy."

"You used to strike us as

being a very Protestant Catho-

lic, a sort of Jamesian," I said.

"No, I wasn't," he said, and

holding his arms above his

added, "In the last

ture of the Crucifixion, I

are raised above the

We thought Maun-

enard, you."

"I didn't read him

after I had started

novels as a Catholic, I

then I wasn't thought

"Catholic novelist,"

Brighton Rock."

"It was very ex-

actly. You couldn't stand

testament, barmaid who

for justice."

"Yes, I under-

stood that book, and I did

in *The Heart of the Ma-*

my most popular book

don't like it any longer.

Like many English Cath-

olics, I don't like conventional

piety. The more of the

the Catholicism of the

countries, I've always

suppose I'd now call a

Catholic atheist. The

Catholic I admire is St

Pope."

"A rather privileged

crosses Catholic in a

age."

And Newman of our

said. "As a writer I've

been criticized by the

Cardinal Newman

them."

He put his case most

fully when he wrote of

lark, stole some letters sticking out of the letter box of a Londoner. He was rushed into a club to read them hoping to find some sexual revelations, found them dull and then, characteristically, enjoyed the alarm of crying to stuff them back in the letter box unseen.

Tired of fashionable clubs, he joined a group of bohemians who met in the only place, in those days, where one could get a bed to sleep in at the afternoon." Also, people had torn pages out of the out-of-date *Who's Who*. He liked that. But he is not a roaring bohemian or an exhibitionist. He likes belonging to the opposition, to be the odd man out, and to make his own flesh creep.

And to laugh. The world is too complacent. Let us catch it out. And don't run away with the idea that he is a cynic or a mocker or a man in a temper: he is a very gentle, serious, self-controlled, and a little misanthropic, and a man of great clarity.

© Y. S. Pritchett, 1972

Monday: Sunday dinner. Must
book. Meals 1.3, 7.9. Table
d'ôte lunch £3. Table d'ôte
dinner from 56. Dinner, hed
and breakfast £14.
Criman Hotel, Crinan, Argyll
and Balaclayde. Tel. Crinan 255
and 256. Must book dinner
and breakfast.
Meals 12.30-2, 7.9.30. Table
d'ôte lunch £17.5. Table d'ôte
dinner £4.95. Bed and break-
fast from £5.50.
The Abergroby Hotel, Abergroby, Car-
digarth. Dwyed. Tel. Abergroby
810227. Closed Sunday and
Tuesday dinner. Must book
dinner. Meals 12.2 (bar), 7.15
(table). Table d'ôte dinner £4. Bed
and breakfast from £5.
The Arden Hotel, Wilmington,
near Hounon, Devon. Tel.
Wilmington 278. Closed Sunday
dinner. Must book dinner.
Meals 12.30-4.15, 7.30-9.
Table d'ôte lunch £5. Table d'ôte
dinner £6. Bed and break-
fast from £7.50.
The Woolverton House, Woolverton,
near Bath, Somerset. Tel. Beck-
ington 415. Closed lunch; Sun-
day. Dinner 7.9.30. Table
d'ôte lunch £6.05. Bed and
breakfast from £10.
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the Good Food Guide (Con-
sumers' Association and
Modder) 1978.

CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION

Weekend

SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black

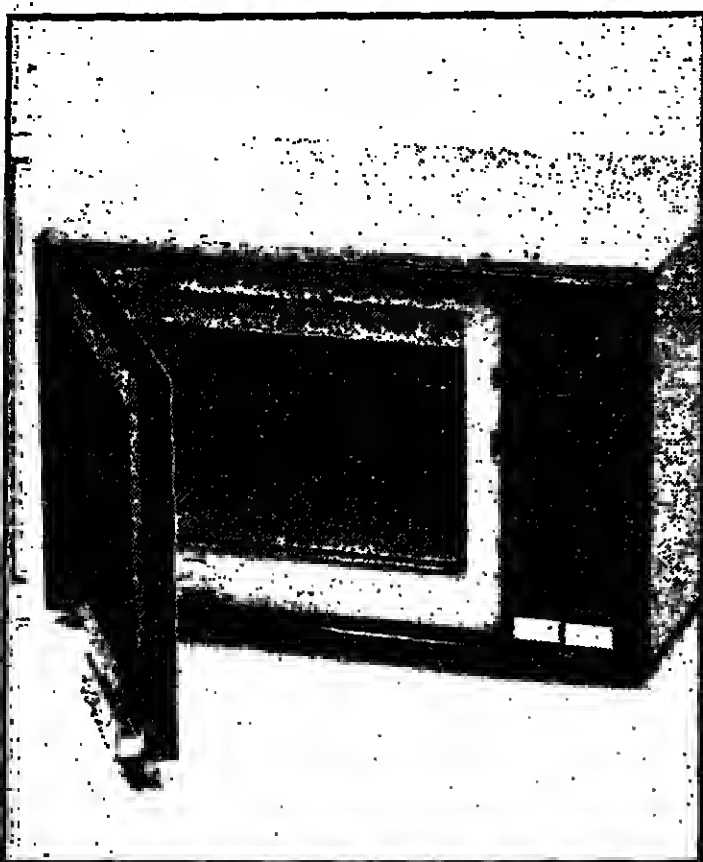
This is definitely going to be cloche year and there is still time to buy and set them up if you remember that we have had frosts right up to the end of May for the past couple of years and the earth remains cold. Even greenhouse owners need cloches to extend the vegetable and flower season and starting now will gain you food from the garden sooner than in-cloche users.

The cloche needs to be in place for at least 14 days before outdoor sowing and planting to warm the bed and it is worth remembering that, even for cold-soil crops, the cloche can protect them from too much of either sun or wind. I have seen some experts try out the Westray cloches because the prices are reasonable and they are so tough, so durable and so light. They have plastic sides and ends, and Polythene tops, but they can be used with sheets of glass for those who still prefer it, having been made to suit both schools of thought. The frame is complete with netting, so excellent idea because

birds are such predators of early crops and the netting seems to withstand rabbits. I know one man whose garden is always entirely demolished by rabbits and who has given up vegetables but is now longing to try out the Westray netted cloches. So I shall have to wait to report his success or failure. Westray parcels come packed flat but are easy to assemble.

The prices are £8.80 for five for the Tent Cloches; £13.85 for five for the Low Barn or £17.80 for the High Barn type; and £4.75 each for the baby frame. The netting is entirely by mail order. Leaflets will be sent for a large envelope, stamped and self-addressed. The address is Westray Cloches, 15 Church Road, Upper Biddington, Daventry, Northamptonshire NN11 6DL (Byfield 60329).

Although I have not seen them, I like the sound of cloches with sliding panels to give access to the plants without moving them. As recommended by experts last year, they are in the range of Essex Garden Products, Robjohns Road, Chelmsford, Essex, and can be bought direct at £6.98 per two-cloche pack (6ft 1in) or £8.95 per three-cloche pack. Add 80p postage.



National Panasonic

It looks as if microwave ovens will be the next domestic appliance to take off, following the pattern of freezers in the early part of the decade. Wholesalers and retailers report sales for the last half of 1977 of double those of the first half, and the first three months of this year look like being double again. For manufacturers, the picture is slightly different since there are now so many more brands to share the market once occupied by two or three firms, then half a dozen, and now a dozen or so.

My own is the National Panasonic, chosen for its compactness, easy operation (but they are all easy), appearance, and general usefulness. Nothing is useful unless it is regularly used, and is easy to fit into our already-overcrowded kitchens. We have prepared a list of makers of microwave ovens together with addresses for any reader who wants to compare this and that; or you can get data from the Electricity Council Press Office, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD (01-834 2333).

The principle is the same for all of them. A radio wave is transmitted into the oven which agitates water or moisture molecules, so causing friction which in turn causes heat within the food itself. Cooking in this way, the oven itself does not get hot. The result is no mess, no oven to clean and no pans since you can use plastic, glass or paper dishes for the cooking process—even wood as long as you do not subject wood to the oven for too long or too often as it will be dried out.

Glass will not crack—not even glass that would when subjected to normal, rapid heating. You can cook many things actually on the plate from which they will be eaten. You can certainly warm up food that way in seconds—no drying, no change of colour, no spilling, and the flavour remains as good so that you can serve one plate of food for the absent diner and warm it later when he or she does come in. You can use any vessel in the oven except those with metal in them—except a gold band will cause sparking so avoid those.

The convenience is terrific, whether for one or for a family. It is not and cannot be the sole cooking appliance but a superb kitchen aid. It does not brown although you can buy browning skillets, which, when preheated (being of special glass or ceramic), will brown the meat or whatever that is put into them.

However, since there is the preheating time to take into account (use the ordinary electric grill if my cooker to flash the cooked food to brown crispness after cooking in the microwave. A jacket potato will take four or five minutes, no more, and a roast about six or seven minutes per lb if you like it medium rare, although some people will want as long as eight or nine minutes.

Chicken and similar poultry is done in six minutes per lb in my own experience on the choca dish. Thin, long joints are best as the penetration of

the rays is under two inches so a four-inch diameter joint would still be pink at heart but not right through. All microwave food goes on cooking for a time after being removed from the oven and stays hot longer until the moisture particles lose their heat.

I have learned, by the reaction of visitors who had no idea how the food was cooked, that the flavour is terrific from the microwave; that nothing has been done to dry it or change it. Just try one jacket potato to test that. Nutritionally, there must be advantages. The colour of fruit and vegetables is also preserved—add a little water to the carrots or greens and take them out in their glowing orange and green condition.

Scrambled eggs now—no, you might not just as well take a saucepan and do those. Just stick a bowl or glass of eggs into the oven and there you are. Allow one to 1½ minutes per egg, mix in a little milk and season to taste, then put into the oven, setting to the appropriate time. After the first minute or so, open the oven (the timer will stop and stay where it is, ready to pick up again when the oven is restarted) and stir the contents well, then replace for the cooking to finish.

No pan to clean—and scrambled eggs can mess up a pan—but creamy eggs ready to serve on the toast. Notice I did not mention butter. You can add butter if you wish but there is no need, which must be a good thing as most of us eat too much. Those who love it can overbutter the toast but microwave scrambled eggs are creamy without the butter.

I even heat my night-time milk in the mug from which I drink it. Leave enough space at the top of the mug to allow the milk to bubble up, put the mug in and then turn the timer on either 1½ or two minutes (the latter for too hot to drink, the former for very hot). You will be able to take the mug out by the handle and hold it. The dishes are heated only by the heat from the food being conducted into them and not by the microwaves. Convenience again since there is no boiling-over, no pan to wash, just the mug.

If all this convenience and cleanliness, this easy living, seems expensive at anything from around £230, then think again about saving electricity. True, it takes a long time to pay for itself but, allowing some cost for time and labour saving, there is—or can be—some electricity saving. Obviously, it takes more to heat the pan and then the milk on a hob. You are probably using 1,500 to 3,000 watts for a hob or a kettle for about four minutes which is rather more than the 1,200 watts of a microwave for 1½ minutes. The sums are better as you roast a 3lb chicken in 20 minutes, for instance, is said to cost about 1p or 2p and to save 10p or 12p at current prices on cooking in the oven despite adding the time of the grill for final browning. Sauces and gravies—they can heat in literally seconds, according to how much density is put into the oven.

Never overload the oven. Cook a chicken and then the jacket potatoes and then the greens. You will find the

chicken still hot after the vegetables are done without need of the oven to keep it warm but you can do the greens on the hob if you wish since they do not need as long as 20 minutes. Precook as much as you like, whether it is porridge or meat, and reheat in seconds. I know one family which cooks Sunday night dinner in the morning or on Saturday, goes out all day on Sunday and heats the meal when they return.

My daughter, with teenage children and a new baby due at any moment, works at a small business with her husband. They found that food taken from the freezer in the morning so as to be thawed in time for the evening meal was too often not eaten. The children would receive invitations at school and they would be phoned to say nobody was likely to be home for supper. So, if nothing is defrosting, they are free to eat out, have a lighter snack, or defrost a smaller portion and so waste nothing. The reason is that their microwave defrosts so fast. Some have microwave ovens defrost programmes which, to heat through evenly, emit waves for 30 seconds, then rest for 30 and so on. If there is no defrost programme, this is a good way to do it.

The "heat" input is constant so cooking is on timing. Some ovens do add sophistication, like variable input or even a top element for browning which, in my personal view, is against much of the convenience of the microwave oven which, because it does not heat up, needs no cleaning. Instead, you heat into it, increasing the risk of splashes and boiling over. Most ovens have a glass base—potatoes, for instance, can be cooked straight on this without any other container.

Another advantage in some homes could be the oven's mobility and it is often kept on a trolley. All it needs is the ordinary 13-amp socket and so it can be used to cook at the table. While operation is fool-proof—one or two buttons or dials at most—it takes a little time to get used to the cooking so as to maximize the oven's usefulness. It is useful for single-person or multi-person households.

It will not roast your potatoes, and it will not make a good job of pastry. You will still want the grill for sausages and chops, the oven for keeping warm and so on. But you will save a good deal of electricity, a desirable object quite apart from saving money, and you will find life that much easier.

You can use it as a servant or forget it if you want to work on your cooking skills. It is not an essential except, perhaps, where space is at a premium or where little large-scale cooking is done. Families who feed their freezers and depend on the last-minute heat of the oven or bread, will welcome it as I know from the experiences of many. My own oven, the National Panasonic, is childishly simple and, by the way, children can use them safely because of the absence of heat that burns. It measures 13 by 13 inches and is little space and fits well into my life of unpredictable hours but numerous visitors. I find it as useful as my busy, family-bound daughter finds hers. It needs only a 13 amp plug, it can be used anywhere, and it costs about £240 unless you find a discounted one.

There are rather fewer of those appliances as yet although it must come if these ovens become as popular as the rice cooker. Here is not a recipe book but a manual of advice books with ovens are produced abroad and the manual and recipe book are very suitable for us in Britain—all will have home-produced books before long, I am assured. The book I recommend wholeheartedly is written by Jenny Webb, who is head of the Electricity Council's division for performance testing of these, among other appliances, and who has lectured on microwave all over the world. Here is not a recipe book but a thorough explanation of what microwave cooking is, with excellent tables of recommended times for all types of food. The book is called *Microwave—The Cooking Revolution* and it is at some ovens sold like hot cakes. You can buy it for £2.50 post free from Forbes Publications, Harrow House, Queensway, London W2 4SR (01-229 9322). Even if you do not plan a microwave yet but are just curious, this is well worth buying before you start shopping around for the ovens themselves.

The kind of furniture that you can see at Designair is not handmade for each customer but it has the highest standards of finish and taste. Designair does not make it—it makes nothing but it gives superlative service. It acts as exclusive importer and distributor for some lovely furniture with an almost rustic look yet smoothly modern and excellently finished, every piece being designed to show off the live graininess of good woods. There is modern furniture of a more familiar kind too, all so well made that anyone would be proud to have it about the home.

It has been brought together in a collection by Arnold Goorwich, whose long experience in the furniture business taught him that what the client needs is service with a capital S. Pieces that arrive, that fit, that are exactly as ordered. Pieces that are right for the job, hand-picked by trained designers or by men and women who know. So, near Sloane Square, Goorwich started Designair and set aside a room and table, a charming but functional working room, for designers and architects to bring their clients as well as for less experienced home shoppers to call for plan-



Maxie Lane

Custom-made furniture is for the wealthy but what could be nicer if you can afford it? There are still furniture makers, some of them listed in the booklet of the CoSra covering craftsmen of all types all over England, recently mentioned on this page. Mr. Be. Howard is more than a craftsman; he is a skilled cabinet maker and proud of it, a man with smooth taste who makes superbly finished furniture in a timeless, periodless style of the kind Reals, the dozen of modernity, was proud to show before Christmas. A backgammon table was lovely and cost £800 and a corner display cabinet in Indian rosewood with adjustable shelves was another beauty at £639. Mr. Howard works from Rotherby House, Singleborough, Bletchley, Bucks (Windsor 2468), pushing forward his six-year-old campaign to promote skill and artistry and, harder still, to make a living by so doing. For Londoners, his work is on show in a new gallery called Innate Harrovy, 67 St John's Wood Road, London NW3 (01-722 0686). Worth a visit, the show is on until April 15.

On a different level, but stressing taste with stock and/or speed of delivery, New Dimension has suddenly doubled its size. It is creating 20 shops in shops at larger Debenhams stores, bringing the total number of branches up to some 30 shops with more to come. See really good modern furniture at realistic, not cheap, prices all displayed with the right lighting and other accessories of pleasant but homely living. A great deal of their stuff is still packed flat to take home with you and they have worked hard on easy-assemble designs to give robust finished pieces.

Debenhams account cards plus other credit cards will buy anything you want at independent or shop-in-shop branches, and you will like their rugs, cushions and other knick-knacks as much as their wood or cane furniture. Get the address of your nearest branch from the head office at Manor Road, West Ealing, London, W13 (01-998 2900). They are developing a real look of their own, as Habitat did and still does, a rather charming and appealing look, soft but always modern.

For furniture by mail, you would have to go far to beat Hamlet as long as it is pine or water; pine with tradition and modern manufacture combined to give easy cleaning with nostalgic designs. Hamlet has extended its range to buttoned chairs that look like the old leather club chairs and is becoming comfortable, and they still sell, as many shops and stores now do, the two link-together single beds that can be one large one. Headboards in brass or cane, and some beds have drawers in the base.



Detail of barometer top.

Gerrard is about to introduce an historical piece, a reproduction of a Daniel Quare patent standing barometer. The original was made in about 1700. These latter-day reproductions are, entirely hand-crafted, as were the originals, but they sell at £425 each in a limited edition of 150 pieces. The height of the standing body is 40 inches, the body is in walnut finish with finely-chased gilded metalwork.

A good catalogue of thoroughly basic household items is issued by Limericks, 110 Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. It is not offering you the beauties of the glamorous bedrooms so often advertised but it sells the kind of things you rarely find elsewhere since the small drapery stores vanished; serviceable candlewick bedcovers and candlewick by the metre in a good range of colours; sheeting and towelling also by the metre, very useful for odd sizes; rather towels and cot sheets etc.; fine white linen, polyester cotton and cotton mixtures in colours and patterns in 70in or 90in widths; and even flannel-ette sheeting, which quite a

few readers have wanted but been unable to find. Curtain linings and brushed nylon are alongside cotton or linen huckaback towelling or roller-towelling. You can buy waterproofed materials, pillows, rugs, and some reasonably priced Wincey shawl-blankets at about £14 and £18 for single and double beds. Cotton cellular blankets, for those who find duvets too hot in summer, as well as for blanket users, are great in hot weather and only half that price yet soft and pleasurable to the touch. Candy stripe sheets are back by popular demand, having disappeared from most shops. You can also buy ready-made sheets of all sizes, even for cots, felt, lace

and service. You will not be able to buy the furniture elsewhere, apart from one or two bedroom and living-room pieces, but Goorwich is working on appointing special stockists elsewhere provided they have his own high standards. Goorwich or his staff have been known to fly to Italy or to France to ensure that the proper pieces arrive. They choose the best kitchen furniture in wood that you can find, and they buy it from the most efficient factory in Italy. Forget all that you hear about Italians not dealing with any but the best though not always the most expensive; and she confirmed that Designair is everything it claims to be for home or office, bedroom or kitchen, public or domestic. Try them at 147 Sloane Street, SW1 (01-730 2113); you but the wood kitchen is no



Suffolk Recliner



Suffolk Recliner

after sticky fingers have been at it. The Welsh dresser with cottage doors, each with glass complete, is about £265 including VAT and delivery to anywhere in Britain. Live awhile with Hamlet's catalogue from Hamlet Furniture, Waverley Road, Bristol BS17 5QT (Chipping Sodbury 319090). A very real favourite of mine for mail order or personal shoppers is Rookmoor, Mills, Bath Road, near Stroud, Gloucester GL5 5ND (Amberley 2577). The accent is on service here and they will go to endless trouble to ensure satisfied customers with the exception of those who start burling abuse at the slightest mistake and find Rookmoor digging their toes in as they never do to the pleasant customers who make up the greater part of their clientele.

Their beds are the most comfortable I have tried—mine is a firm mattress but you can get medium and soft as well. The mattresses are resilient or comfortable, and they still sell, as many shops and stores now do, the two link-together single beds that can be one large one. Headboards in brass or cane, and some beds have drawers in the base.

Their carpeting is excellent and they go for textures—understandably since they started with good-quality rush matting and got used to texture on the floors. The rush flooring of small squares, with a tight weave, is very hard-wearing and it looks good, but anyone who can afford it will be tempted by the chunky pile of the yarns carpetings. They also have cane furniture, including the now-famous Peacock Throne and the rocking chairs, and an excellent collection of prints and pictures, much of it from the Christie's Fine Art collections. They are open on Sundays and week-end shopping there is fun, with people going along to enjoy the rural barns now converted into showrooms. Their mail order service and delivery are excellent—the sales manager is married to the man who runs the local delivery business and I detect a high degree of cooperation.

At The Furniture Workshop in Suffolk you might expect to find rustic furniture, even farm stools, but you will actually see a really comfortable, highly sophisticated recliner. It is a rather good-looking version of a simple dentist's chair, designed and conceived

by David Wicks who reckons hours daily commuting on a portable British Rail set-up. He gave up his job as a teaching assistant, converted a building into a workshop, and started on making comfortable armchairs. After many wags and much trial and error, he the Suffolk Recliner.

The Suffolk Recliner changes smoothly, without the jerky, similar chairs, and is adjustable. The object is to be whole body but especially in the region where backache waits.

And then the principles but it was obviously going to be expensive. Thus David Wicks to market it directly, to cut middle costs of distribution, that people will want his comfort. And it can be yours with padded arms as in the £18.50, which is pretty much stools like that used to be again. The Recliner should be less for over and space available should they ever. The frame is steel and the port "slings" of tough or The suspension cords were stand up to the rigours of going yachts, says Wicks, and one of the kind of fibre in Dralon velvets are made cleaning is easy enough. It cost more. The cushions are as well as comfort.

Do ring him for more detail want them but, in any case, refund your money if you chair within seven days but sit in it for a good long time it properly. The Furniture is at Forward Green, Stowmarket (Stowham 222).

Then we come to Marie L. acquiring a great game 6 Nicknamed "King of the Ed" Lane has been making his from the dead skins, as we to preserve some of these in our homes as because it wood for furniture and an elemental ruggedness, is biography, *Running*, is how many people for me to do his escapades of the past scene for the fact that he to make furniture and to stop running. He is at the Exhibition.

The Science Museum has an exhibition of the life and work of Wedgwood (1730 to 1795) founded the pottery, the title of "father of English" and developed a booky new to the public scientific as anything, museum itself in this scientific achievement. The exhibition is a thing like 300 exhibits not previously shown, include pottery and its chemical apparatus and together with work in molds, Romney, Stubbs others. The exhibition is March 21 and is in the until September.



New Dimension

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A hanger for both the iron and the board (as long as the latter has the type of foot shown here as most of them have) is practical and inexpensive at £2.20 plus 30p p/p or £4.50 for two including p/p. Many mail order firms are now offering some discount for pairs thanks to the slight saving in costs of packing two similar articles rather than singles from a wide range. The address is Mister Lewis, 82 High Street, Walthamstow, London, E17 7LD, and the material is strong chromium steel.

What crime writers do when they get together

For the city they call the Big Apple the past seven days were not a national holiday week. There was a large crowd with a seal in gold to say otherwise: "I, Edward Koch, Mayor of the City of New York, do hereby proclaim the week beginning March 12, 1978 'I Love a Mystery Week'." It was also the week that included St Patrick's Day, and the Empire State Building was bathed in bluish green by night while Friday itself was another and noisier story.

But for 50-odd mystery merchants who crossed the Atlantic and a few who crossed the Pacific, it was the second International Congress of Crime Writers (London held the first in 1975) when, in various theory at least, an aged Hawkeye, accompanied by an only slightly less octogenarian Miss Twitters would confront a still robust, if paunchy, Hercule Poirot, gun in hand. Only, of course, life is more complicated.

British voices ranged from the writer of the simple annals of a north country inspector who was heard to say "charmingly," "Well, I never ever saw a man standing in the middle of Park Avenue," to the much savvier fellow in the cocktail lounge exclaiming "Of course, New York is an Edvardian city." And the marble splendours of the Biltmore Hotel where most of the congress took place were there to prove him right, partly.

The Scandinavians, as fixed for crime as Israelis and Italians

Where in the simplistic picture do you fit the substantial Swedish delegation, the Norwegians and the Danes—all Scandinavians are crime-fixated, it seems as well as the Japanese, the Portuguese, the Italians, the Israelis, the Canadians, the French and Miss Walbridge McCully from the Virgin Islands? And, if my own experience is anything to go by, there was a crime writer from somewhere even more remote than the Virgin Islands.

Well, a man came up to me, neared at the statutory name, labelled on my coat and exclaimed: "H. R. F. Keating! But I thought he was dead." And there may well have been someone present yet more sinister. One of the most successful lecturers was Captain Frank Bliz, the New York Police Department specialist in hostage negotiation, and he revealed that nowadays one of the difficulties of his particular speciality is that would-be terrorists do their damndest to attend lectures on hostage

The wind that blows for me in El Medano

The young Spaniard on the check-out desk in the super-market Juanita has mastered in English, German, French, Dutch and Swedish the small talk of casting the bill, coughing out the change, handing it over and thanking for custom—all in the clear, patient, emphatic tone of a missionary selling beads to the savages.

There are a lot of apartments rented in Medano, Tenerife, every winter by fugitives from the northern winter. Every morning we jostle and shove in the supermarkets, presenting to the courteous folk behind the counters an extraordinary impression of beef-tadpole lunatics.

The characteristic language block is to be able to speak but not understand. "Good day, sir. Have you yoghurt?" "Yes, female sir, Natural or flavoured?" "No, no—yoghurt, by favour."

"Yes, female sir, Yaw. Natural or flavoured?"

Repeated and multiplied daily, these exchanges ought to drive the Spaniards crazy, but their courtesy never fails. They welcome the trade and are masters of the situation. The customers are meek. I watched a smiling transaction between the younger son of an Englishwoman who had come in for a bottle of mouthwash. She went away quite contentedly with a tube of adhesive for fixing wobbly dentures. I bought a jar of coffee substitute purely because, in order to show it to me, Don Luis had had to get out his ladder and climb up to a shelf to fetch it down. Rather than make him take it back, which I felt might sadden him, I pretended that it was of all things just what I had hoped for.

Another time I was mortified to find that in white, under the very natural impression that she was buying a fillet of frozen sole, had bought a hunk of Greenland turbot frozen in Japan (and that more curious evidence could you have that the world is becoming a single huge supermarket), but she pointed out that we were only playing the parts assigned to them in the great delight in self-catering. The hotels have adopted a bland

negotiation before they set to work.

But crime novels are as much entertainment as they are grim stories of homicide and terrorism, eerie houses and frightened ladies, and the crime writers managed not to be always serious. We went to New York's aqueduct race track, where they held the Mystery Writers Stakes and a Ripper, lost his crown to Mr Percy Parker, one of America's few black crime writers.

We saw, too, splendid old primitive Sherlock Holmes films from circa 1903 to the first Basil Rathbone triumph when \$2,000 were laid out in making for to surround Baskerville Hall.

Yet sterner tasks were accomplished as well. New York's flood snowstorm of winter was traced through to reach the "Harper and Row" novels of suspense cocktail party. And cherry-topped Virginia bam was successfully combated at the "Ross Macdonald luncheon" where Mr Macdonald himself interestingly traced the art back to Coleridge. And, sorting ill with so much mightily generous eating there was an autopsy to attend (Caucasian male, aged approximately 30 years, found in a snow heap in Central Park).

Work was done, too. There were the learned lectures, even if they resounded not so much with phrases like "The rigor mortis clue" as with Mr Ellery Queen's pronouncement that "the importance of slush cannot be overestimated" (No, not New York's grisly snow, but unsolicited manuscripts).

We heard, too, of "the long form" (TV serials) and the "short shorts" (Stories below 3,000 words of which the champion, Mr Queeso said, was a one-worder: "Bang!").

If there was one subject indeed on which every delegate agreed it was that "crime does not pay—enough". There was an audible gasp when a tough New York literary agent bluntly declared that the mystery novel was becoming, thousand-sale by thousand-sale, markedly less of a good proposition. (Heartening news next day from Miss Joan Kahn, doyenne of mystery editors, who reassured us all that the form was merely "moving towards the mainstream").

But mostly it was talk. Writers, by and large, are talkers and New Yorkers, surely are great talkers. So backs were scratched ("I read your book," "You read my book,") and eyes were rubbed and gossip was gossiped and, yes, we're having a marvellous time.

H. R. F. Keating

International menu which certainly doesn't emphasize national dishes. There is huge pleasure in buying the makings of a classic Spanish dish, such as black beans simmered with garlic and eaten cold with olive oil and a chopped sweet Spanish onion, and the hard crusted bread and Manchego cheese, with a bottle of wine at 45 pence a litre.

To live like this is to feel more of a person, less of a party member.

To go back to a place is to court disappointment. I hadn't seen El Medano for five years. I hardly expected its peace and quiet to have survived the coming of the motorway linking it with Santa Cruz, but they have.

In the jargon of the United Nations, it would be called a "developing" area, which means that it has developed and is rather messier than it was. The roads are rough and the cacti are more numerous. The cactus one passes on the path to the plaza still thrive, but share space with a couple of garbage dumps.

There has been a negative development on the sunstruck waste of flat rock and sand behind the beach outside the village. Walking out there one brilliant morning, straight into the sunlight, I walked towards countless dazzling points of reflected light, every one of them a bit of broken glass.

It was spread over such a wide area I wondered if it had been deliberate, perhaps to discourage cars from driving right down to the beach. I had forgotten that bottles left in the sun will explode. Ahead of me a peasant was raking together some of the rubbish people leave behind, like plastic dustpans, detergent and suntan containers, tyres, dolls and broomhandles, and setting fire to them. As I walked past these odorous conflagrations I heard the muffled roar of bottles exploding. I felt myself lucky not to be winged by a shard.

What holds El Medano back, or protects it, is the prevailing wind, which sweeps down from the north-east and blows straight along the beach. Out of the wind and in the sun the temperature in January and February can reach the eighties. In the sun and in the wind you can catch a stiff neck that will never be right again in this world.

But people like us, who find ourselves drawn to return home, that it is easier to get away from the world than it would be to get away from the people who would be here if there wasn't any wind.

Peter Black

Why Labour is banging the drum in Scotland

Fred Emery



Mr Callaghan: getting ready to step out in Scotland

Mr Callaghan knows. He is going to Dumfries today to try to bring the Labour vote to the Scottish Council of Labour. At stake, immediately, is the next bye-election at Glasgow, Garscadden, which may now be

brought on right after the Budget in mid-April. But the stakes are higher. There is the limp but important Scotland Bill which would, provided the Scots vote for it strongly enough in the refer-

endum, set up that "devolved" new assembly in Edinburgh. Without it being at least offered to the Scots voters the Government would look feeble after all its pursuit of devolution.

The way Scotland goes in a general election traditionally settles the fate of a possible Labour government; now it affects that of a possible Conservative government, and without exaggeration—as Mr Ronald Faux, *The Times* Scottish correspondent has recently emphasised, it is the election after next, at the earliest, that the United Kingdom, at least as we have known it.

Restating the arithmetic traces the Scottish lifeblood for any Labour government with a small majority—and this one now stands in a 16 overall national minority. Labour presently holds 40 of the 71 Scottish seats, and can afford to lose none, including the vacancy at Garscadden.

The Scottish National Party, having possibly passed the high water mark in capturing Conservative seats, now threatens Labour's supremacy—while forcing the Conservatives to look to Scotland alone for an overall victory.

Such conclusions will be contested publicly by both major parties. But the initial test will come at Garscadden, the first bye-election in Scotland since 1973, and the more evasive because the SNP candidate came second to Labour in October 1974.

A reinvigorated Scottish Labour hierarchy is bidding to win the seat, and so scotch the SNP, if not kill it. The Scottish Conservatives, for whom Mr Teddy

Taylor has deployed the high risk tactic of all-out assault on devolution, are making much of it, and there is report of revitalised party organization.

But the suggestion this week from Garscadden Conservatives (on the basis more of a canvass than an opinion poll) that they are now running second, ahead of the SNP, is being greeted with great scepticism by breed watchers in both Conservative and Government high commands.

The general assumption at this stage seems to be that Labour should hold on, with the SNP second. But that the likelihood still lies ahead that, at a general election, SNP might take 10-12 seats from Labour, possibly exchanging a couple of gains and losses with the Conservatives.

The implication of that kind of a result is clear enough. Conservatives would have to gain some 37 seats, virtually all in England (for Wales, too, is possibly reckoned a lost cause). Then later in the year—and surely before a general election—will come the test of the referendum.

Why not take that political north of the border this year? Footnote. My report last week that the immigration row made some Conservative MPs dread what the "supposed" themes committee under Mr Angus Maude will drum up next needs correction. This little known sub-Shadow Cabinet committee, Mr Maude points out, never at any time discussed immigration, nor included a single word about it in any paper it submitted; furthermore, he says, the committee ceased to exist a month ago.

The killing of young Edward: so it wasn't his wicked stepmother after all

One thousand years ago today, early in the evening of March 18, 978, Edward, King of England, was waylaid at the entrance to Corfe Castle, dragged from his horse and foully slaughtered. "No worse deed was done since the English race first saw Britain," recorded the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.

The royal victim, 18 years old at the most, had succeeded Edgar, his father, three years previously, in circumstances which gave rise to hot dispute. Doubts as to his legitimacy were reinforced by suggestions that he had not been born in the purple—i.e. that his mother, Aethelfleda, although legally married to Edgar, had not been consecrated to the kingdom at the time of Edward's birth.

Further objections to the succession were based on Edward's reputation for tolerance: in the words of Byrthferth, a monk of Ramsey writing some 30 years after the event, he "inspired in all not only fear but even terror, for he scourged them" not only with words, but also truly with dire blows, and especially his own men dwelling with him.

The object of Edward's visit to Corfe, one of the mightiest fortresses in his realm, was to call on his stepmother, Aethelfleda, and her son, Etheled, then about 12 years old. Both were in residence at the castle, and it is to them that tradition has generally attributed the guilt for Edward's murder. Tradition, not for the first or last time in the history of the Anglo-Saxon kings, is almost certainly unjust.

According to Dr Simon Keynes, research fellow to history at Trinity College, Cambridge, the injustice arose chiefly from a desire by post-Conquest historians to lay the blame for the calamities of the next reign upon the weak but underserving shoulders of Etheled, Edward's step-brother and successor. Clearly, they felt, Etheled had forfeited God's favour by harbelling a murderer, and it was his guilt that was the cause of the great crime.

Equally clearly, no mere boy could have conceived so dastardly a murder, let alone executed it. Obviously, Aethelfleda, who had both the motive and the opportunity, was the guilty party. Walking out there one brilliant morning, straight into the sunlight, I walked towards countless dazzling points of reflected light, every one of them a bit of broken glass.

Of such stuff are legends

day within the monastic calendar.

It is that same observance which will be celebrated with special pomp this afternoon in the lovely parish church of St Edward, King and Martyr in the village of Corfe Castle, Dorset, the Saxon shore, Dallas of the Saxon shore. The service will be attended by churchmen of many denominations, led by the Bishop of Salisbury, and by mayors and dignitaries from all over the Isle of Purbeck and beyond.

The Lord Lieutenant of Dorset will represent the *parvula* House of Windsor—a pleasing reminder that Queen Elizabeth II's ancestry can be traced back, without inordinate difficulty, to the ninth century kings of Wessex.

The Rector of St Edward's, the Rev Gerald Squarey, has devised the order of service to form both an act of worship and an exercise in liturgical conservatism. "It's not just a case of 'Oh God our help in ages past,'" he says. "It is also a careful endeavour to recover some of the prayers which have not been in use since medieval times."

The church choristers will wear the scarlet cassocks to which Corfe's former status as a Royal Peculiar has entitled them ("more or less," says Mr Squarey). Since 1579, and will be joined by contingents from Wareham and near by Laighton Marston. The latter will sing a Latin hymn to St Edward composed in the twelfth century and set to plainsong music of the same period: a brave undertaking for a village choir, and a happy tribute to St Edward, martyr and boy king.

Millennium events

A 24-page programme of millennium events over the next seven months is available from 19 West St, Corfe Castle, Dorset (30p, post free).

A limited number of first-day commemorative covers are available from today the 5p Town of London stamp was specially franked in Corfe Castle sub-post office on the day of issue (50p with large seal from Millennium Stamps, Corfe Castle).

First of two new plays about St Edward will be performed in Corfe Castle tonight. The book, entitled *Murder or Sacrifice?*, is published by the author, Rachel Lloyd (Oxford's Corfe, Corfe Castle, £2.14 including postage).

Richard Sachs



An eighteenth century engraving of King

Edward at Corfe Castle: was

he poisoned, stabbed or shot with arrows?

How two cultures met and misunderstood

It is ironic that as the science fiction film *Cosmic Encounters* of the Third Kind opens in London does an exhibition in Manchester recording the only occasion in human history when such an encounter took place.

Civilizations have met head-on, each so different as to make it seem like a collision between two worlds. In South America military conquest overwhelmed the weaker. But once the civilizations were equally formidable, equally confident.

Cinemas opening today at the Whitworth Gallery in Manchester records the effect on European taste in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries of contact with the Chinese empire. Organized by students of the museum studies course at Manchester University, the exhibition's porcelain and furniture are loaned to the awe the mutual incomprehension and the enthusiasms which follow on a close encounter.

In the middle ages Europe simply refused to believe in an empire which was larger, wealthier and better administered than Rome ever had been.

Marco Polo was regarded as the first purveyor of science fiction.

It was thus a great shock when traders, Jesuits and ambassadors began to return in the seventeenth century. John Nieuhoff went with the Dutch embassy to the Manchu court. "It is almost incredible for anyone to believe (unless they had seen it) in what state and pomp these idolaters and heretics prince, live, and in what good order their people are governed."

But there was something else, something much more startling. "The whole kingdom is swayed by philosophers, to whom not only the people but the grandees of the court yield an awful reverence." The Europe of the Enlightenment stepped back. The philosopher Leibniz ventured the opinion that instead of missionaries being sent to China Chinese missionaries should be sent to Europe. To Voltaire the Chinese empire was simply "the best the world has seen."

But then few people had ever been there, and the reality was too far away for it to intrude in the meantime there were the products of the place

to consider. The West believed that the few pieces of porcelain which the traders brought back had magic properties: they broke when filled with poison. They were thus of the highest political significance, and the West did not know how to make porcelain until the first decade of the eighteenth century.

Augustus the Strong of Saxony had two passions, porcelain and women. He had 350 bastards but porcelain was expensive so he set his alchemists to work. In 1708 one came up with the first piece of unglazed white hard-paste porcelain. Two years later the Meissen works was set up, when the secret of manufacture was guarded like that of the atomic bomb. Naturally within 20 years there were porcelain factories all across Europe.

It was not that the passion for Chinoiserie came into its own. Chinese pieces were copied. The new craze prompted mad enthusiasms for all things Chinese. On the plates of Staffordshire, a world of stillness was depicted. It was a world of gardens and lakes where old men sat under trees

and watched the butterflies pass. One complicating fact was that few people had ever seen a Chinaman, let alone China. No matter: a moon face, long garments and a pagoda and the craze roared on.

There was never anything like it in Europe. An indication of how popular it was is that the £90,000 worth of exhibits in the Whitworth came from museums and collections within 40 miles of Manchester. All of these have so much Chinoiserie that very little of what is on show will ever have been seen before by the public.

The West began to produce its own Chinese designs. Thus the willow pattern, despite the blue and white Nanjing colours, has its origins in the England of the 1770s. A Chinaman of the time would have found it all very puzzling. Little escaped the craze. On show is 1760 Staffordshire jug featuring Bonnie Prince Charlie in Highland dress, but surrounded by flowers that never grew in Scotland. A certain piquancy is added by the fact that the Chinese did not export their best porcelain, but only the garish vari-

ety they thought would appeal to Europeans. They were not adverse to cashing in on their close encounter, so they in turn began trying to reproduce European designs. There followed a mad ballet of mutual incomprehension.

A 1730 plate has on it the Chinese version of the Judgment of Paris. Three women as big as sumo wrestlers totter through a garden. There were bustling scenes with peculiar thick-necked dogs racing over horse plains, and the bumsman staggering drunk. There were bowls with a dog-faced John Wilkes on them. More successfully there were bowls showing wharf scenes at Canton, the European merchants swaggering with their cane.

The two civilizations suffered at each other like strange dogs. The English produced what they thought to be Chinese furniture, bizarre frail things with bells and upswung cornices. The Chinese produced what they thought was English furniture, heavy, grotesque chairs with vast leather seats. The Chinese furniture of the time was austere and beautiful.

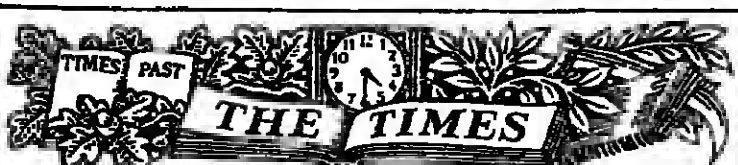
The exhibition at the Whit-

worth covers the period 1650 to 1820. The last was carefully chosen. The Prince Regent had amusingly gone over the top as usual, and the excesses of the Brighton Pavilion had brought home the absurdity of Chinoiserie. It had also become associated with the excesses of the ancien regime which had dressed whole villages on the Continent in Chinese costume. As more people visited China so its fascination withered: the old dream of the philosophers' kingdom gave way to the reality of a corrupt empire.

But Chinoiserie is oddly enduring. It is still there today in a million tea-sets. The three moon faces glide over the bridge and the swallows hover, as big as bull macra. Its most alarming manifestation was, oddly enough, a twentieth century one. The eccentric Sir George Sitwell, his eldest son recalled, was filled with an ambition to sell all the white cows in his park with a blue Chinese pattern. But the animals were so obtuse and perverse as in this end to oblige him to abandon the attempt.

Byron Rogers

ate 11.00 1.50



WEST'S GAIN: RUSSIA'S LOSS

By depriving Mr Rostropovich of his Soviet citizenship the Soviet Union is depriving itself of one of the greatest musicians alive today. The gesture is therefore not only cruel towards Mr Rostropovich, who is devoted to his country, but also severely damaging to the Soviet Union and significant for what it says about attitudes now prevailing there. Doubtless it is intended as a warning to other stars who may step out of line or who earn for success in the West, but the message it conveys is deeper and ultimately more damaging. It reveals a growing sense of insecurity in the face of the creative forces still generated within Soviet borders. It is not an isolated incident. In recent years there has been an extraordinary exodus of cultural and intellectual talent from the Soviet Union. An incomplete list of the most distinguished names would include Zolotarev, Nekrasov, Maximov, Brodsky, Sinyavsky, Nureev, Baryshnikov, the Panovs, Khrennikov, Medvedev and Orlovsky. Some have left willingly and some not, but they are in common that in one way or another the Soviet Union has demonstrated its unwillingness to accommodate their talents.

Recently there have also been attacks on the Soviet press on distinguished figures still working in Moscow, such as Mr Yuri Lyubimov. The pressure for conformity appears to be increasing, and cultural exchanges with the West are, on the whole, neither growing in quantity nor improving in quality. The Soviet Union seems less than ever willing to play the part it should in international cultural exchange, or at any rate is prepared to do so only on terms which are so different from those other cultured countries that they diminish incentives on all sides. There is, of course, a welcome improvement in so far as creative artists who do not conform are no longer automatically shot, imprisoned or totally silenced. It is better that Russian culture should flourish in the West than not at all, and to some extent the Soviet Union's loss is the West's gain. But in the long run both East and West need the interchange which is normal in the rest of the developed world. This will be impossible so long as the Soviet authorities insist that the maintenance of political control is more important than the fostering of artistic creativity. Nobody of real artistic stature can long tolerate the petty controls which the Soviet authorities insist

upon, the permissions that have to be given for every concert programme and, for every trip abroad, the delays and harassments, not to mention the pocketing by the state of nearly all foreign earnings.

If present trends continue they will become still more damaging. A state which cannot live with its cultural heritage cuts itself off from one of the vital sources of regeneration and historical legitimacy. It condemns itself to a form of slow inner death. There has been no better elucidation of this than a letter written three years ago to Dr Husak, the Czech leader, by another victim of the same system, Mr Vaclav Havel, the playwright, now scandalously imprisoned. "The essence of the situation," he wrote, "consists basically in a distrust of all variety, uniqueness and transcendence; in an aversion to everything unknown, impalpable and currently obscure; in a proclivity for the uniform, the identical, the inert; in deep affection for the status quo. . . . Somewhere at the bottom of every political authority which has chosen this path to entropy lies a hidden death principle." That is the path the Soviet Union seems to be choosing by cutting itself off from a man as devoted to life as Mr Rostropovich. It is hurting itself more than him.

A NEW ERA FOR GIBRALTAR

A meeting in Paris this week between Dr Owen and Señor Peña, the Spanish Foreign Minister, gave a good indication of the very different atmosphere which the issue of Gibraltar is now being discussed. The British Government has not even up its claim in Gibraltar, and no one expects that there can be a quick solution. But it is now possible to imagine that a solution may eventually be reached, and that until it is, the question of Gibraltar will not be allowed to sour relations in other areas between Britain and Spain. This is a real advance, which is due to the more pragmatic approach taken in Madrid since the death of General Franco and the adoption of a democratic system of government.

The basic change is that the British now acknowledge the need to take account of the interests of the Gibraltarians in reaching a settlement. In the days of General Franco they took a view that the Gibraltarians are little more than alien intruders. When they cut links with Gibraltar they were indifferent to the fact that they were cutting them further. They were not aware that there can be no one in the status of Gibraltar about the agreement of the Gibraltarians; and they have gone to think of formulae which

might be acceptable to them, such as giving Gibraltar a status comparable to that of Catalonia and the Basque country, or one allowing for even more autonomy.

Nothing like that would be acceptable now, and there is an expectation that proposals of this sort will come up for discussion at this stage. Instead, the working groups which are to be set up will concentrate on various practical measures which can be taken immediately and which can help to rebuild confidence between Gibraltar and Spain—the reopening of the ferry between Gibraltar and Algeiras, the permanent restoration of telecommunications, and the payment of social security benefits to Spanish workers who lost their jobs in Gibraltar when the frontier was closed. Spain has already moved in this direction by opening the telephone link last Christmas and leaving it open. But there is much more that it can do if it really wants to win the trust of the Gibraltarians.

The Spanish Government has to move carefully because of its own public opinion, which feels strongly about Gibraltar, but all the indications are that it wants to take the heat out of the issue. For one thing, it has to recognize that if ever Gibraltar came part of Spain, Morocco would be almost certain to

revive its claim to the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla. It also needs British support if it is to succeed in becoming a member of the European Community, especially as France and Italy have reservations about competition from its agriculture; and it is thinking about joining Nato. After years of isolation, Spain is rejoining the mainstream of European affairs, and this creates a new and less urgent context in which to discuss Gibraltar.

As far as Britain is concerned, it is essential that the Gibraltarians should be closely associated with any talks that concern them, and that the impression should not be given that the British Government might be prepared to sacrifice Gibraltarian interests in a deal with Madrid. There is no suspicion of this at present, since Sir Joshua Hassan, the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, and Mr Maurice Xiherras, the Leader of the Opposition, were both at the meeting in Paris, and Sir Joshua afterwards described himself as fully satisfied with the outcome. In the long run, it is not clear what form a Gibraltar settlement might take. But it should not be impossible to reach an agreement within the evolving European context which can be accepted by all concerned.

THE RIGHT TO SUE FOR LIBEL

Last month, an English jury awarded Dr Milton Obote, the former President of Uganda, damages of £40,000 against Lady Listowel, for an allegation in a book she had written that he had acted corruptly while in office. Lady Listowel had admitted that she had insufficiently researched her work, and there was no suggestion made in court then, and none made by *The Times* now, at Dr Obote had conducted himself improperly. He was, under the law of this country, entitled to come before a jury to obtain compensation for the damage to his reputation made him. But was it right that he should be?

Dr Obote is and was not a sident here. Although well-known as the former leader of Commonwealth country, it is not said that he has any special reputation here. The acts which gave rise to the defamatory statements were alleged wrongly to have been committed in Uganda, not in Britain. The only aspect of the case that referred jurisdiction on an English court was that the defendant, the writer of the libel, is resident and domiciled here. (The domicile of the publishing company would equally be conferred such jurisdiction.) The fact alone should not be sufficient reason to allow the arts of England to be burdened with libel actions brought by people with little connexion with this country.

The governments of more than two thirds of the countries of the world make it impossible for outsiders to have any real access to information about events within their borders. Journalists in countries with a free or near-free press have a duty to their public to keep them informed of what is happening in countries without the same freedoms. Because of the closed nature of those societies, it is usually impossible to ascertain the true state of affairs at first hand, and other means have to be used. For that reason, journalists often have to accept second-hand sources—the accounts of refugees, for instance. Proof, in the legal sense, is often absent, but it is the clear duty of the press to give its public what information it has, even if it falls short of that legal degree of provability.

Yet it is precisely proof of that kind which the courts require from a defendant seeking to show that apparently defamatory allegations made against a plaintiff were in fact true. Stalin could well have won a libel action against *The Times* for saying, in the 1930s, that he had been responsible for the deaths of millions. *The Times* has often published reports about atrocities perpetrated by tyrannical regimes. Many of the allegations could not be proved to the satisfaction of a court and no one would be allowed to search for the evidence on the spot. Our legal system, however,

could allow the leaders or high officials of those countries to sue *The Times* for libel.

The same principle holds true for less spectacular cases. Had Lady Listowel not admitted that she had been careless, but wished to contest the claim, how could she possibly have proved that her allegations were correct? Even where the other country involved is in that minority which allows a degree of freedom and where, therefore, investigations could be carried out, an English court could provide a remedy for the foreign plaintiff which he could get nowhere else. A libellous statement made about a public figure in the United States would probably not be the subject of a libel suit there because of the laxity of their law of defamation. But if it was also published in this country, he could then come to England, with which he has no links, and obtain libel damages which he could not have got in the country where he lives and works. That cannot be just.

The law should be changed to exclude such absurdities. English courts should only have jurisdiction in defamation cases where the plaintiff resides here, or has some substantial connexion with this country, or has a specific (but not general) reputation here, or where the conduct forming the subject of the defamatory remarks took place here. If none of those factors exist, the plaintiff's suit should not be entertained.

British Library

Mr Robert Key
The debate about the new British Library, its site and its facilities will no doubt continue for a long time. I hope this will not be allowed to obscure the problem created by the decision to switch the site from onmsbury to St Pancras. As long as 1961 property was bought by the government, immediately the south of the British Museum site which was then in favour. The area has suffered from unlight ever since. Attraction buildings have decayed, bus routes have been uncertain, and residents have felt insecure directly affected employees such as caretakers have been neglected by the bureaucracy of the Property Agency and Camden Council. In short, most of the community has lost out. In January 18, 1977, Miss Margaret Jackson, MP told the House of Commons that plans for the use of Commons land for the new British Library should be removed from the Department of the Environment

"should be completed in the near future" (Hansard) and that the properties not required would be disposed of by auction or tender.

The people of Bloomsbury are no doubt happy that the nation is to enjoy a new library and delighted that their houses are not after all to be pulled down. But it is now high time the Department of the Environment, through the Property Services Agency, honoured its commitment, so that the life of the community can return to normality it has been denied for many years. Yours faithfully, ROBERT KEY, Prospective Conservative Parliamentary Candidate, Holborn and St Pancras South Conservative Association, 26 Argyle Square, WC1.

A new flag?

From Mr W. S. Parker
Sir, With the impending devolution of Scotland, it will be necessary to remove the Scotch element

from the Union Jack. This will leave us with the cross of St George and the saltire of St Patrick on a white ground. Presumably there would also have to be due amendments to the routine of flag etiquette.

Yours faithfully, W. S. PARKER, 68 Ladies Mile Road, Patcham, Brighton.

World Cup on television

From Mr Kenneth Bird
Sir, It is tragic to learn that the BBC and ITV cannot sort themselves out over the dreary period of the World Cup.

To be subjected to hours of football hysteria on two channels is an insult to millions of people, including myself, who find this particular sport utterly boring.

Yours faithfully, KENNETH BIRD, Newwood Lodge, Rogate, Petersfield, Hampshire.

Israel's retaliation for PLO attack

From Mr Peter J. Kleeman
Sir, The many cross currents that ebb and flow through the Middle East can tend to obscure rational and logical argument. Your leader (March 16) accuses the Government of Israel of both lacking wisdom in responding to President Sadat's initiative in an "inadequate and now disastrous" manner. The peace formula proposed by Prime Minister Begin and subsequently approved by President Carter as a fair and reasonable basis for discussion has been fully commended upon. These proposals, as is known, led to the formation of two Joint Israeli-Egyptian committees, namely the political committee which met in Jerusalem and the military committee meeting in Cairo. What is perhaps less well known is that before Sadat's strange decision to recall the members of his political committee from Jerusalem, agreement seemed to have been reached on five of the seven major points of contention. Considering the total lack of communication between these two states for virtually 30 years, such progress is little short of remarkable.

The mystery surrounding Sadat's decision to withdraw the current attitude of Saudi Arabia concerning the barbaric attack by the PLO on innocent civilians last Saturday are surely as worthy of critical comment as the many columns devoted to the efforts made by the state of Israel in trying to eradicate the constant threat to civilian life from terrorist organizations. Yours faithfully, P. J. KLEEMAN, 3 Clifford Street, W1, March 16.

From Mr B. M. Cole
Sir, The dilemma in which the Israeli finds itself is well illustrated by your editorial in this morning's edition (March 13).

However right you may be in your argument that Mr Begin should not retaliate against a most cruel and outrageous attack by the Palestinians, there seems to be one basic human consideration you have not taken into account. We are expecting a decision between "turning the other cheek" and "an eye for an eye".

Consider a point where the political consideration is immaterial in the process you break that part of the character of a people that in effect created their nation. The will to survive. Israel is one of the few countries whose people's pride is not only its life blood but perhaps its most effective weapon.

I am sure that you would expect

the British people to retaliate should the same sort of atrocity be perpetrated against us.

You are asking too much of the Israelis. Yours faithfully, B. M. COLE, 100, Rode Hill, Rode, Somerset, March 13.

From Mr Kilian Williams
Sir, I am deeply shocked at the behaviour of the Israeli Government in using the murder last week of 37 of its civilians as an excuse for carrying out the premeditated attack by 20,000 troops on the sovereignty of Lebanon. That this nation should have so little respect for the efforts of others to secure peace in the Middle East and should wilfully destroy any hope for the future in order to gain a short term political advantage through the gratification of the baser instincts of its electorate most horrify us all. Yours faithfully, KILIAN WILLIAMS, International Secretary, Federation of Co-operative Students, Northern Region, Norey College, Durham University, March 16.

From Mr Michael H. Sacher
Sir, In reply to Dr Mehdi's letter of March 4, I would simply like to suggest that as long as any Arab or other governments continue supporting the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the "justice and internationally accepted principles" he speaks of seem to be based on black-mail and murder. Yours sincerely, MICHAEL H. SACHER, Anglo's College, Windsor, Berkshire, March 15.

From Ms Emma Hooper
Sir, When is a battle not a battle, and a war not a war? When Palestinian guerrillas kill 30 Israelis who have occupied their country, it is a bloody act of terrorism. When thousands of Israeli troops invade Lebanese territory, kill hundreds of civilians, and remain six miles inside the Lebanese border, it is "a mopping-up operation". Yours truly, EMMA HOOPER, 244 Kings Road, S.W.3, March 16.

Drugs and the law

From Ms Anne Stanesby and Mr Keith Martin
Sir, The letters from Messrs Raw, Rankin and Marshall-English (*The Times*, March 15) came as a welcome oasis of common sense and fair-mindedness amidst a desert of hysterical and one-sided press coverage of the recent LSD trial.

Much publicity has been given to the exaggerated claims made by the police officers involved in "Operation Julie". For instance, it has been stated over and over again that the defendants were responsible for supplying "half the world market and 95 per cent of the United Kingdom market". Neither is true. LSD remains virtually available on the streets at virtually the same cost as it was before the mammoth police operation. Moreover, in the USA alone two clandestine laboratories manufacturing LSD have been discovered since 1970.

Much publicity has also been given to the alleged involvement of the defendants in the "Operation Julie" trial. The two letters you published are the only reasonable comments we have seen. Raw and Rankin are rightly to be commended for their honesty and for their clear-sightedness.

Now, thanks to Geraldine Norman and *The Times*, the methods of the fakers, whoever they are, have finally been exposed. We must be grateful to her and to all those who have helped her in her long and

underlying society's attitude to drugs. A survey (1976) of London casualty departments showed that self-poisoning by minor tranquilizers accounted for more admissions than any other drug (27 per cent) with barbiturates running a close second (22 per cent). Both of these are manufactured and sold at vast profit legally. Hallucinogens were second to the bottom of the list, accounting for only 1 per cent of admissions. Our experience here in street drugs agency confirms these findings. LSD causes far fewer problems to the consumer than most of the other available black market drugs excepting, of course, cannabis.

The sentences passed on the defendants were disproportionately severe, especially when one considers the treatment meted out to violent offenders—eg, 10 years for sexual assault. Does 13 years for manufacturing LSD really make sense? We don't think it does. Yours faithfully, ANNE STANESBY, KEITH MARTIN, Release, 1 Elgin Avenue, W9, March 15.

Exposing fake Fragonards

From the President of the Confédération Internationale des Négociants en Oeuvres d'Art
Sir, For some 20 years now, what I should call the scientific community, comprising directors and curators, art historians and reputable dealers, has been more and more deeply concerned by the number of spurious drawings, presented as original works by Fragonard, which have appeared on the market, either in the trade or in auction rooms, in London as well as in Paris or Versailles.

The quality of these fakes, especially the first ones, was such that even eminent specialists have been deceived and it is only when the number of such drawings, showing the same characteristics, increased, that doubts and later certainties were reached as to their inauthenticity.

Now, thanks to Geraldine Norman and *The Times*, the methods of the fakers, whoever they are, have finally been exposed. We must be grateful to her and to all those who have helped her in her long and

detailed inquiry, and we must thank you for the courage with which you have tackled the whole matter. I wish I would have been in a position to raise the question sooner but, being a dealer, I could have been considered as a party in the dispute. Anyway, only a journalist, and one of great talent as is your *Salon* room correspondent, could explain such a difficult matter to the layman without unnecessary technicalities and art historical "jargon", so that the whole problem should look absolutely clear.

I would wish to stress another point. It is the civic sense of museum directors—in Ottawa and Montreal for instance—of dealers such as Eugene Victor Thaw, Robert Light or even Mr and Mrs Hignous, or private collectors as Mrs Wrightman, without their consent to publish as fakes the drawings they had acquired, it would have been impossible to expose the whole system and affair as you have done in your March 8 and 9 issues.

Yours sincerely, JEAN CAILLEUX, 136 Faubourg Saint Honoré, Paris, March 9.

The youngest headmaster

From Mr Graham Stainforth
Sir, Among the under-30s who have been appointed to headmasterships, Edward White Benson, first Master of Wellington and subsequently Archbishop of Canterbury, deserves a mention. He was 29 when his college opened in 1859 and his bride was 18. Although very little older than the senior boys she was known as "Moby Benjy" and is reputed to have started a practice which was certainly followed by at least one of her successors—she always did the carving at meals.

Yours faithfully, GRAHAM STAINFORTH, The Cottage, Waterbrook, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, March 14.

From the Rev J. I. Miller

Sir, As far as I know, the distinction to be the youngest headmaster is held by H. H. Swales. Swales was born in about the year 1867, he came to the headship of the school in 1891 at the age of 24, and died

in 1937. Oddly enough, both Isaac and Archbishop Lord Fisher ended their lives as pastors of small parishes.

Yours faithfully, J. I. MILLER, Cockfield Rectory, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, March 14.

From the Rev Robert E. Dolman
Sir, Henry Mander was appointed Headmaster of Bablake School, Coventry, in 1824 at the age of 18 and held office until his resignation in 1870.

As a pupil of the school himself from 1815 to 1822 he is reported to have said that there were only two other boys on the foundation. By the end of his headmastership there were 70 places in the school.

I expect there are other instances in Victorian schools of early appointment and long tenure. Yours faithfully, ROBERT E. DOLMAN, 62 Somers Park Avenue, Worcester, Worcestershire, March 15.

Curbing football hooliganism

From Mr Dennis C. Lehané
Sir, Millwall Football Club has received considerable criticism following last Saturday's violence among the crowd at the FA Cup tie with Ipswich. An Ipswich MP has called for the club to be permanently closed and an Ipswich businessman has launched a campaign to achieve this. I have yet to hear anyone speak in defence of the club and I would be grateful if you would permit me to put the case for the club through your columns.

I am a season ticket holder at Millwall and have been attending matches there regularly for nearly 20 years. I was at Saturday's match. I was appalled by the violence and saddened by the consequent attacks on the club, many of the latter being in my view both ill-informed and hysterical.

There is a prime facie case for criticising Millwall FC, I would suggest, on three grounds only: it failed to segregate rival fans adequately; it failed to search spectators coming through the turnstiles for offensive weapons, such as bottles, adequately; and it failed to order sufficient police to deal with the potentially violent crowd. Each of these are serious criticisms, and together they are damning. But the club itself may have explanations for all or any of one of them. I don't know but in due course we will find out. That is not what concerns me here for most of the criticism of the club has been levied on a far wider basis.

Millwall FC are not responsible for the maintenance of law and order either inside the ground or outside it. Nor should they be. That responsibility rests firmly with the police and the courts.

I was appalled by the violence on Saturday. I was not the only one among the crowd who was appalled, but there was only one of us, anyone else could stop the violence. It was the job of the police to do that. There were 30 arrests. I saw far more than 30 arrestable offences. Why were more arrests not made? Why were individuals who had clearly committed acts of

violence returned to the terraces by the police? I don't know, but there is not much point asking Millwall FC for the answer, for they don't either.

Those offenders who appeared in court were mainly dealt with by the imposition of fines, suspended sentences, and brief jail terms. One can only wonder at the efficacy of fining those on low incomes in an area where the non-payment of fines is endemic, and the ability of the police to enforce collection negligible because of stretched resources. Perhaps the best comment on the sentencing of the courts was made by the youth who received one month, suspended, for two years. He said afterwards that he was surprised by the leniency. No wonder! Less than one month earlier he had been convicted for possession of an offensive weapon at another football match.

Again, the failures of the courts, to impose effective sentences against the offenders, is not the fault of Millwall FC. It is my view that exemplary sentences for football hooliganism would go a long way to combating the problem. But for this to be effective, it requires the police to take a more serious view of the offences.

At Millwall on Saturday scores of individuals committed acts of serious violence which could easily have left their victims dead or seriously injured. If the courts should take a strong view of this, which they should—so too must the police. The police have to arrest the offenders before the courts can deal with them.

None of this has any direct connexion with Millwall FC. If the club were closed down, I and some 10,000 other regular and not so regular supporters would suffer. But can anyone seriously claim that these guilty of Saturday's violence would ever again as a result engage in such activities?

Yours sincerely, DENNIS C. LEHANE, 86 Melrose Road, Brockley, SE4, March 17.

Windscale report findings

From Mr R. A. Kimber
Sir, Mr Justice Parker, in his remarks on nuclear proliferation, argues as follows:

Non-nuclear weapons states with civil reactor programmes must not be pressured into building their own fuel reprocessing facilities and thus into acquiring weapons capability.

As they have civil reactors these states must have assured fuel supplies and be able to dispose of spent fuel. These states are as eager as any other to become independent with regard to energy supplies. Therefore these states will not be satisfied with United States promises of supplies of enriched uranium fuel

and of storage facilities for spent fuel. But these same states will be satisfied with British promises to reprocess their fuel and to supply them with uranium and recycled plutonium.

That is to say that states that will not accept dependence on the United States for the provision of nuclear services and materials will accept such dependence on Great Britain.

If this extraordinary logic is correct it can only be because we are more concerned with our balance of payments than with the risks of nuclear proliferation. Yours faithfully, R. A. KIMBER, Trinity Hall, Cambridge, March 9.

Teaching industrial action

From Mr Humphrey Fisher

Sir, It is a matter for grief that school children, as reported in the press this week, have now adopted some of the terminology of industrial action, such as sit-ins and demonstrations to protest against the almost identical antics of their teachers. But while it is a grievance, it is not at all a surprising matter: some teachers' unions have repeatedly disrupted the normal pattern of school life in recent years, and it seems the children have learnt the lesson. Teachers, or some teachers, have allowed the pursuit of their own material interests to subvert their professional responsibilities, and what should be their personal loyalties, to those entrusted to their charge. As a direct result we now have, may God help us, teachers striking against pupils, pupils against teachers.

Much the same pattern of block confrontation has been for some time emerging in the universities, although here it is the students who, with occupations and boycotts, have led the way. The Association of University Teachers (AUT) in its last week broadcast forth threats and slaughter again, as it does from time to time, discussing ways in which the legitimate interests of students might be harmed—for example, by refusing to mark exams in order to twist the Government's arm over pay.

Between the millstones of power politics, courageous individuals are ground to powder. Last week we read the tragic history of Mrs Hunt,

a "dinner lady" who cut sandwiches for the children during a strike. Sent in Coventry by her companions, ordinary mums, she changed schools; now she has been expelled from employment altogether by the National Union of Public Employees. I have beside me as I write a copy of the student magazine of my own college, marked by vindictive personnel abuse of a senior administrator, who has made the student devotion given a lifetime of service to the college.

Schools, universities and all other patterns and places of education require relations of trust between individuals. We are steadily replacing these relations with those of distrust between power blocks. As a teacher, and AUT and hence also a TUC member, I have not the least doubt where teachers' duties lie. No matter how justifiable in itself, no grievance justifies the deliberate abuse of professional duty, nor inflicting hardship on innocent third parties. This is a clear, simple rule. All honour to the Professional Association of Teachers, a small union which serves this cause and rejects the selfishness of industrial action. In one of the few encouraging snippets of educational news over the past fortnight, it is excellent to see that PAT membership is steadily growing.

Yours sincerely, HUMPHREY FISHER, Reader in African History, School of Oriental and African Studies, Malet Street, WC1, March 16.

Yesterday's sounds

From Mr B. C. Guy

Sir, Tragic to think that the modern child can never again hear and see the "puffer-train", perhaps particularly the occasional joyous scream in ascending arpeggios as the big wheels slide under the heavy load, followed by the slow, dignified crescendo as the train finally moved off. Dear old "puffer-train". Yours nostalgically, B. C. GUY, Forest Park, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, March 16.

From Mr Noel Johnson
Sir, Bus (and tram) conductors' punches did not go ding, ping, or ching.

I they went ker-ling. I am, Sir, an obedient servant, NOEL JOHNSON, 218 St Margaret's Road, St Margaret's-on-Thames, Twickenham, Middlesex, March 16.

From Mr T. Stranack
Sir, I have good news for lovers of traditional sounds. You can still hear the tick of the clock in a Rolle-Royce at any speed.

Yours faithfully, T. STRANACK, 7 Addison Crescent, W1, March 15.

From Mrs Prudence Murray
Sir, My favourite sound of yesterday was the clatter of a hand-car by a curvy old gentleman in the Harley Street neighbour-

hood 20 years ago. We became friends, he played Chopin waltzes for me, and he used to read his hat with such elegant sweep and dignity that it was not easy to drop a coin into his tray without appearing condescending.

Yours faithfully, PRUDENCE MURRAY, 14 Avenue Road, Winchester, Hampshire, March 16.

From Mrs David Noden
Sir, Mrs Coggan (March 16) might consider a visit to Wiltshire, Cheshire, or Mr Jeff Cooper's pastured alas and hygienically bottled, but you can't have everything.

Yours faithfully, SHELACH NODEN, 40 High Street, Garstang, Lancashire, March 16.

From Mr Tony Solway and Mr Mark Eggers
Sir, We think that Mr Harris and Mr Jackson, as well as Mrs Coggan (March 16) have got their priorities wrong. We consider that trains that want "Choo-Choo" and "Whence" have far more historical significance.

However, we would like to thank them for bringing to light severe losses to our society. Yours faithfully, TONY SOLWAY, MARK EGGERS, Trinity College, Cambridge, March 16.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

دولت اسلامی

Warning of EEC protectionism

Japanese fail to reduce surplus

By Michael Hornsby

Wilhelm Haferkamp, the German Minister for External Trade, flew to Tokyo today to deliver a message that unless Japan reduces its 5,000,000 ton trade surplus with the Community, the Commission will be forced to take action.

Mr Haferkamp said that the Commission was "very concerned" by the Japanese surplus, which he said was "the main cause of the protectionist measures" being taken by the Community.

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Herr Haferkamp: a stern message for Tokyo

Later start for London options trading

By Bryan Appleyard

The Stock Exchange is to announce the opening date for the London Traded Options Market on Tuesday, and it is now clear that it will not be April 4 as originally planned.

That is the date the Amsterdam options market opens, but now the London date looks like being April 25. It also appears that it will be more expensive to deal in options than in equities.

There has been some pressure to open at the same time as Amsterdam, because one of the main sources of custom for the London market in its initial stage is seen as being overseas investors.

UK agrees ships deal with India

By Peter Hill

Britain has finally completed the deal to build six cargo ships for India. They are being financed out of development aid to India and by subsidies from the Government's shipbuilding intervention fund.

The deal has attracted almost as much controversy as the 24-vessel package deal with Poland, particularly since the Indian ships effectively are being given away in order to secure jobs.

Both the Opposition and the General Council of British Shipping have criticized the deal and are worried that similar deals will follow.

Mrs Judith Hart, Minister of State for Overseas Development, has approved a grant of £51m to the Indian Government to enable the purchase of the ships in Poland. Each of the 24-vessel package deal with Poland, particularly since the Indian ships effectively are being given away in order to secure jobs.

BSC raises severance pay offer

By Our Industrial Correspondent

British Steel has offered enhanced severance pay to 1,500 workers at Ebbw Vale, South Wales, in return for the premature closure of steelmaking operations at the plant.

The invitation was extended yesterday by Sir Charles Villiers, the chairman of the company, in a speech to trade union leaders in the town.

The corporation is clearly optimistic that they will take up the offer in the light of the recent settlements made to steel workers at Hartlepool and East Moors, near Cardiff.

At East Moors, the "iron handshake" could be up to £17,500 for some men, with normal redundancy payments made up with funds from the European Social Fund.

Taking the sparkle out of diamond markets

As Tiffany's, the New York jewellers, took the extraordinary step of warning that diamond prices were too high, De Beers acted yesterday to curb speculation in the diamond market.

Tiffany's placed an advertisement in *The New York Times* yesterday urging prospective customers to "look before you leap". It admitted that it was an unusual step for such an organization to take, but pointed to the artificially high prices caused by speculation.

Meanwhile, in a break with its tradition of maintaining stable prices, the De Beers marketing arm, the Central Selling Organisation—which handles 98 per cent of the world's output of rough, uncut gem stones—has announced that it may impose surcharges at its "sights" (sales which are held every five weeks).

Clearly De Beers must think the diamond market is on the verge of going out of control, and that this could seriously undermine the position of the CSO, which is formed for the purpose of bringing stability to the market.

In its latest attempt to restore equilibrium to the market, the CSO will assess the state of the market immediately prior to the sights, which are held for the purpose of bringing stability to the market.



Mr Denys Randolph: timely opportunity

Wilkinson shareholders accept terms

By Nicholas Hirst

Shareholders in Wilkinson Match, the consumer products group, yesterday agreed overwhelmingly to allow the controversial deal with Alibon Ludlum Industries, the United States concern, to go ahead.

Alibon had agreed to sell its True Temper garden tool and golf shaft subsidiary to Wilkinson in return for increasing its existing 29 per cent holding in the British group to 44 per cent.

On a high total poll of 51 per cent of the votes capable of being cast, 8.6 million were voted in favour and only 546,000 against.

The deal raised questions of principle and a committee of pension funds instructed the Hill Samuel merchant bank to report on its merits.

This report was favourable and had a significant effect on the final outcome. Neither Alibon nor Swedish Match voted their shares.

Mr Denys Randolph, chairman of Wilkinson, said yesterday: "This is a timely opportunity to put an end to the speculation in the Wilkinson shares, and it is a unique way of establishing a base in that country which is the largest market for our products. It is something we have been seeking to do for a long time."

Lucas to cut 200 more Merseyside jobs

Employment prospects in Merseyside worsened further yesterday when Lucas announced it would cut another 200 jobs at its industrial engineering works at Long Lane, Fazakerley, Liverpool.

The company, which announced the cuts on Thursday, the closure of its Broadgreen, Liverpool, aerospace works, blamed yesterday's decision on a drop in demand from the Ministry of Defence for components including hydraulic equipment for the Army's Chieftain tank.

Lucas employs about 500 men at its Long Lane works. The company said it would try to provide those affected with jobs in other areas.

Shop stewards at the Victor works at Broadgreen met yesterday to discuss action after the decision to close the factory and transfer workers to the Midlands, with the loss of 2,000 jobs on Merseyside over the next two years.

EEC rules force change in export guarantees

EEC rules have forced a revision of the United Kingdom Export Credits Guarantee Scheme. From April 1, ECGD-backed exports will lose support currently provided for interest on loans of two years or more.

Such loans finance only about 1 per cent of total British exports to the EEC. Under the present EC scheme, however, has been made available at fixed rates for all export credits of two years or more. Where the fixed rate fell out of line with market rates the difference was made up by ECGD.

The European Commission has advised ECED that these arrangements are in conflict with the Treaty of Rome and they have, therefore, been ended. In future, however, to give exporters flexibility in dealing with banks, loans for any amount will be able to be made in sterling. Rate support can continue to be given on ships sales.

ECGD financing was switched out of sterling into foreign currencies last year, but because of the success of this policy a relaxation is to be made for smaller amounts. From April 1 export contracts with a loan value of less than £5m although expected to be in foreign currency may be in sterling.

New Phillips oil find near Toni field

Phillips Petroleum has found oil in the North Sea almost midway between its Toni and Thelme discoveries in block 16/17, about 30 miles east of the Occidental group's Piper field.

The group said yesterday it had drilled the well to discover whether the two oilfields were on a single geological structure. Although testing had produced 4,000 barrels of oil a day and 20 million cu ft of gas, it had still not resolved the question. It was possible a third structure had been tapped.

The drilling rig, Western Pacific, is being moved for another appraisal well three-quarters of a mile north-east of the Toni field, which was producing 10,000 barrels a day. Testing of the Thelme field showed 6,100 barrels a day.

Nube resists Barclays' productivity deal

Barclays Bank's revised conditions for a productivity deal to its 55,000 staff are being resisted by the National Union of Bank Employees. Mr David Dimes, Nube official with responsibility for Barclays, said the bank would not accept the money without thinking of the consequences for the future.

The bank's original offer was tied to the possibility of voluntary Saturday morning working. That has now been dropped after stiff opposition from Nube.

Discussions on possible dismissals among office and management staff will take place on Monday, while industry sources said about 300 people in these groups will be affected.

Swedish yard may dismiss 600

Sweden's Kockums Vary shipyard, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kockums, has told union officials it may have to dismiss around 600 workers this year, Mr Nils-Hugo Hallenborg, group president, said yesterday.

Discussions on possible dismissals among office and management staff will take place on Monday, while industry sources said about 300 people in these groups will be affected.

Non-use of £750m contingency reserve is major factor in spending shortfall

By Melvyn Westlake

The biggest single factor behind the politically controversial "shortfall" in public spending during the present financial year is that not a penny last year, however, to give exporters flexibility in dealing with banks, loans for any amount will be able to be made in sterling. Rate support can continue to be given on ships sales.

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Arranging for airlifting injured divers from North Sea installations

Contractors on an average \$44 (about £22) a day for each decompression installation used in their offshore operations. There are about 34 in the North Sea.

Until now there was no way of moving a diver injured or ill while under compression. The IUC system enables the diver to be placed in a special titanium pressure chamber and flown to its North Sea Hyperbaric Centre in Aberdeen.

Mr Dan Walker, IUC's chief diver and international operations manager, said yesterday that it had cost the company \$85,000 to develop the system, excluding the capital costs of shore-based equipment.

The figure of \$44 a day had been based on recouping the capital costs over a five-year period, he explained.

The company had taken a gamble that a new arrangement would be reached after the first year's contract that would enable them to recover the capital expenditure. Three groups involved in the North Sea—Shell, British Petroleum and Esso—are interested in taking an equity stake in the system.

During the discussion over who pays for the service, the NHS has taken the view that their responsibility for injured divers begins only when they reach the shore. But it will be pointed out that the Government has extended the tax not to cover all workers in the British sector of the North Sea.

Government looks at hazards of gas transport

are classified as rare accidents. It says that considerable quantities of LPG are moved by rail and a fire and explosion on any one wagon could involve an entire train.

LNG is also moved by road. The possibility of a cargo tank on a gas tanker falling could be ruled out and this could result in the formation of a large vapour cloud "attended by a massive explosion".

The report, which answered questions posed by staff at the Dounreay nuclear establishment, says there was no record of any large scale escape of LPG or LNG from a storage plant in the United Kingdom.

These types of accident are so rare they have no effect on the statistics for safety in the energy industries.

The report concludes that nuclear, oil and gas fired power stations have a better safety record than coal burning units.

The markets moved

The FT index: 457.1 - 1.1

THE POUND

| | | | |
|------------|---------------|------------|--------|
| 10p to 75p | Rowtree Mac | 5p to 385p | Bank |
| 1p to 12p | Scott Nelson | 5p to 12p | buys |
| 5p to 17p | Security Serv | 10p to 8p | 2.75 |
| 10p to 12p | Shell Trans | 10p to 51p | 2.50 |
| 10p to 25p | Shine Darby | 7p to 12p | 2.21 |
| 10p to 12p | Thomson Org | 7p to 12p | 11.12 |
| 10p to 12p | Wigfall, H. | 7p to 12p | 10.52 |
| 10p to 15p | | 10p to 23p | 7.95 |
| | | | 8.22 |
| | | | 4.87 |
| | | | 3.25 |
| | | | 66.50 |
| | | | 9.10 |
| | | | 158.00 |
| | | | 465.00 |
| | | | 4.34 |
| | | | 10.08 |
| | | | 78.00 |
| | | | 1.75 |
| | | | 157.50 |
| | | | 150.50 |
| | | | 9.14 |
| | | | 3.75 |
| | | | 1.97 |
| | | | 35.00 |

THE DOLLAR

| | | | |
|------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| 10p to 45p | Steep Rock | 20p to 150p | Bank |
| 10p to 45p | Southwell | 24p to 45p | buys |
| 10p to 45p | Ventures | 27p to 18p | 2.75 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 2.50 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 2.21 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 11.12 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 10.52 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 7.95 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 8.22 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 4.87 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 3.25 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 66.50 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 9.10 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 158.00 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 465.00 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 4.34 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 10.08 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 78.00 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 1.75 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 157.50 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 150.50 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 9.14 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 3.75 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 1.97 |
| 10p to 45p | Wickham | 27p to 18p | 35.00 |

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THE M&G GROUP

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

Getting the sums wrong in the first place is one way of increasing Post Office profits; another we have discovered is its arbitrary habit of insisting that some people should pay a fairly large deposit months in advance of the installation of a telephone.

Area telephone managers have, it transpires, powers to demand that future customers should pay not only the connection fee of £45 but up to a year's rental in advance (£33). With small businesses the demands may be increased by the addition of five months' estimated use.

The argument is that such a system helps to reduce the Post Office's bad debts. No doubt we are all in favour of anything that reduces the taxpayer's liability to subsidize nationalized industries, but the high-handed way in which the Post Office discriminates between those it deems honest and those it considers potential bad debt risks leaves a great deal to be desired.

There is no way of knowing beforehand whether, as a new telephone subscriber, you will be asked to pay well over the odds—such as the £30 recently quoted to us (and this was three months before the telephone was actually installed). Nor are future customers informed that they can argue against the extra loading.

Some areas, it seems, contain more telephone bill welters to the square mile than others, and there the Post Office takes it upon itself to judge who looks likely to be a bad debt risk and who not.

And what is wrong with cash on delivery? Two months, the Post Office says, is the maximum anyone has to wait to get a telephone installed. With failed appointments and other excuses, two months can easily be stretched to three, as many people will testify.

Investing for Easter

On Monday, Christie's, the auctioneers, appropriately enough has six Easter eggs in its South Kensington auction. Not that they are any ordinary eggs, but the work of Stuart Devlin, one of Britain's premier goldsmiths and designers.

Devlin's silver gilt "surprise" eggs have proved to be a remarkably good investment in recent years, although only a Philistine would buy simply for the capital appreciation. Twice a year Devlin produces a limited edition of 250 "surprise" eggs to coincide with Easter and Christmas. The surprise about the eggs is what they contain inside—quite always something different. The eggs in this Easter's limited edition reveal, when opened, an exquisite hedgehog rooting under a delicate plant.

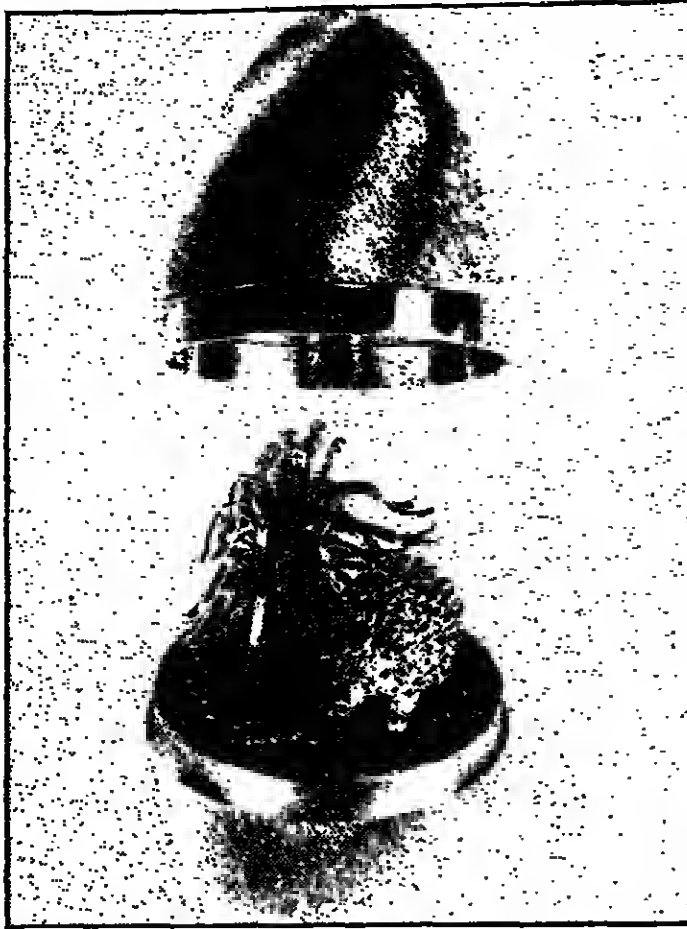
Devlin began his limited editions in 1968 when an egg cost £50. The price of the latest edition is £125. However, recently an egg from the first edition was sold for £500. Given the intricate craftsmanship that goes into the eggs, the limited editions seem remarkably good value.

Devlin does, of course, produce other more exotic individual eggs, using gold and silver gilt, precious and semi-precious stones and here the prices are impressive. Eggs with silver gilt shells are between £300 and £900, while those based on gold run between £2,500 and £20,000.

Inevitably, comparisons are made between Devlin and the legendary Fabergé, a comparison easily understood when you see his latest collection of eggs which have just gone on display at his Clerkenwell showroom.

The exacting craftsmanship and the materials used inevitably make Devlin's work expensive, but that is part of his philosophy. "One of the things I try to do is to provide an opportunity for people who have as their priority the wish to buy really good things. You don't have to be wealthy to be a collector, he argues.

The best collection of his silver gilt eggs, says Devlin, is owned by a secretary who



Silver gilt "surprise" egg in Stuart Devlin's Easter, 1978, limited edition.

forgets holidays in exotic parts of the world, which provide only momentary satisfaction, in favour of acquiring eggs. Devlin reckons that her collection is now worth three times what she has so far paid.

Paradoxically, while most of his customers are rich, passing on price increases is not too easy. Apart from high labour costs, the business is beset by the fluctuating prices of raw materials. Gold has been consistently rising for the past couple of years. Diamonds and other stones have also been rising, while silver has recently shown a sharp and, for Devlin at least, a worrying jump.

Devlin is producing a luxury product, and he is aware that

it is in competition with other luxury items, such as paintings and holiday homes. Cumulative price increases can have serious effects.

He tells the story of a businessman who had sold out and wanted to reinvest the proceeds. He commissioned Devlin to make three sets of gold pendants. Sometimes later he returned asking for a fourth set to be made. When told that the price had trebled he was no longer so happy and failed to appreciate that the price of gold had risen as had labour costs. The fact that his original purchases had shown a strong gain was, apparently, neither here nor there.

Diamonds are, of course,

much used in the Devlin workshop both in ornamental pieces and jewelry. However, after sharply rising prices over the last year he is wondering if diamonds may not be getting close to pricing themselves out of the market.

Last year the Central Selling Organisation, the marketing arm of De Beers, raised its prices for rough, uncut diamonds by an effective 34 per cent. However, due to strong jewelry demand and to hoarding within the diamond trade, some were selling at premiums of upwards of 50 per cent of the CSO prices, which magnified the effect further down the supply chain.

Devlin commented: "I feel that if the diamond price keeps going up I will design diamonds out of my work."

While he makes jewelry for the upper end of the market, his remarks nevertheless have significance for the jewelry trade in general. Devlin points out that many first-time purchasers of diamonds are buying engagement rings. Later, as they get richer and more established, they may buy bigger diamond rings.

However, with many other beautiful precious and semi-precious stones in competition, first-time buyers may be deterred from buying a diamond engagement ring in favour of, say, a sapphire ring.

Devlin argues that the result could be that follow-up purchases might again be diverted away from diamonds to other stones.

He would fit in with the De Beers marketing strategy. Having reached near-saturation of the United States market, in 1975 it is estimated that 73 per cent of all brides received new diamond engagement rings—it embarked on a strong campaign for diamond eternity rings.

Devlin himself makes a specialty of beautiful interlocking engagement and wedding rings. However, you do not change partners and rings all that often and Easter happens to come round every year. Having said this, Easter could be both profitable and pleasurable experience.

Desmond Quigley

Delayed reaction to market recovery

The Times' Halifax house price index fell by 1.4 per cent in February, much, it must be conceded, to the surprise of both The Times and the Halifax. The attitude in this paper and in Yorkshire had been to treat with circumspection the Government's fear that house prices were already set on a runaway trend. All the same, some increase in the index had been expected.

If your first reaction is "lies, damned lies and statistics" don't let it be your last. The index is probably the most solidly-based of any independent house price survey, using the agreed prices of over 17,000 houses reached in February as its base.

Apart from being the largest individual sample measured during the month it is also comprehensive covering the entire country spectrum and not merely the well-publicized "gazumped"—dreadful word—house.

It includes a vast number of ordinary purchases of modest properties up and down the country many of which will have been sold privately. Information expected shortly from other building societies is expected to confirm that house prices overall have been moving at a much slower rate than the public have believed. It is almost certain that next month's index will be up but that the increase will not be of a staggering scale.

The disturbing feature that the index does reveal is how easy it is to create an atmosphere of boom. Certainly throughout most of February there were reports that house prices had "taken off"—all through the reality of the situation shows that this was not particularly the experience of the 17,000 borrowers who applied and received approval for a Halifax loan.

The lag in response to the general view that house prices were on the up and up, however, has now arrived with a vengeance—as the evidence from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors shows.

The questionnaire completed by members throughout the country shows that everywhere there is the same problem: too many would-be buyers and too few houses for sale. This opposing tug springs from the same source: the fear or hope (depending upon whether one is a buyer or seller) that prices are going to rise rapidly.

The estate agents' evidence is based on vendors' asking prices as well as actual transactions and some admit that, as far as February was concerned, the increased prices had not yet been reflected in actual returns.

But in other areas, particularly in London, sales are

The Times/Halifax house price index

Monthly index of average prices of second-hand houses (Dec 1977 = 100)

| | Index | Average price £ | % change over 1 year | % change over 6 months |
|------------|-------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1975 June | 86.0 | 12,846 | | |
| Sept | 85.4 | 12,562 | | |
| Dec | 85.3 | 12,533 | | |
| 1976 March | 87.7 | 12,886 | | |
| June | 92.1 | 13,544 | | |
| Sept | 92.0 | 13,531 | | |
| Dec | 91.2 | 13,413 | | |
| 1977 Feb | 89.1 | 13,105 | 3.8 | -2.3 |
| March | 88.8 | 13,197 | 2.3 | -1.9 |
| April | 92.6 | 13,817 | 2.4 | 1.3 |
| May | 92.7 | 13,630 | 1.5 | 0.3 |
| June | 95.3 | 14,011 | 3.5 | 4.5 |
| July | 96.1 | 14,122 | 1.9 | 0.9 |
| Aug | 96.8 | 14,254 | 4.3 | 0.9 |
| Sept | 96.9 | 14,249 | 5.3 | 0.3 |
| Oct | 98.0 | 14,402 | 7.8 | 1.5 |
| Nov | 99.2 | 14,580 | 7.5 | 1.7 |
| Dec | 100.0 | 14,701 | 9.5 | 4.8 |

Average regional prices of second-hand houses

| | Feb | Jan | Dec |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| North | 12,637 | 12,935 | 12,283 |
| York and Humberside | 10,854 | 11,030 | 10,467 |
| North-west | 12,127 | 12,054 | 12,333 |
| East Midlands | 11,740 | 12,129 | 11,869 |
| West Midlands | 13,781 | 13,542 | 14,946 |
| East Anglia | 12,508 | 14,121 | 13,578 |
| Wales | 12,378 | 12,613 | 12,755 |
| South-west | 14,626 | 16,019 | 15,404 |
| South-east | 19,067 | 18,808 | 18,882 |
| Greater London | 19,514 | 18,882 | 18,816 |
| Scotland | 14,435 | 14,774 | 14,818 |

RICS survey of house prices

Three-month comparison

| | Very much higher (8% or more) | Much higher (about 5%) | Slightly higher (about 2%) | The same | Lower |
|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-------|
| Pre 1919 terrace | 29 | 28 | 22 | 16 | 5 |
| Inter-war semi | 44 | 42 | 9 | 6 | 0 |
| 1939-1959 det'd | 55 | 31 | 12 | 3 | 0 |
| 1939-1959 semi | 53 | 33 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| Post 1960 det'd | 54 | 33 | 11 | 2 | 0 |
| Post 1960 semi | 54 | 37 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| New houses | 57 | 33 | 9 | 0 | 0 |

* The figures show percentage of estate agents who find prices have moved in line with the various categories

following hard on the heels of instructions. And apart from the pre-1919 house—which appears to be attractive to prospective purchasers—feel they can afford more—a much larger proportion of RICS members believe that house prices are now very much higher than they were three months ago.

The question that remains is: was the Government right to ask the building societies to knock £70m a month off their lending targets last week? The evidence seems to be that it

Investor's week

Equities move sideways through lack of interest

In a dull start to the long Easter account equities held firm, more by default than through genuine buying interest. The rally of the previous week was not carried through with any real conviction and bargains once again drifted to around the 5,000 level.

At the close of trading yesterday the FT ordinary share index was 1.9 down on the week at 457.1.

The week saw a clutch of economic figures, index stock BP reporting annual results and a bearish circular on GEC which slashed 15p off the shares at one point, but investors continued to sit on the sidelines, leaving it to the "bed and breakfast" deals to account for much of the business.

Some dealers thought that this trade, being put through before the end of the financial year, was accounting for about 10 per cent of business.

However, as liquidity builds up for the institutional investors, such as insurance companies and pension funds, many are wary of moving out of the equity market.

Gilts saw a better start to the

account. A basic underlying strength to the market helped government stocks to take the trade and money supply figures in their stride and both the long and short "taps" were activated. Estimates are that the Government Broker sold about £500m of stock.

Elsewhere, in light turnover, gilts moved little in the first

four trading days. Confidence waned yesterday and looms large as a point of interest on one stage. Dealers could see no specific reason for the retreat other than general nervousness and sellers taking advantage of a rally.

On Monday retail sales figures much in line with market expectations did nothing for the

stores sector which, after a firm start, ended with small losses across the board. Rolls-Royce Motors, on the other hand, no veiling good profits and a confident chairman's statement, glided sedately upwards, adding 8p to 75 1/2p.

Oils were a firm spot, with Shell finding friends eager for the locked-in dividend and BP waded in front of its figures. Dixons Photographic fell back as a line of about one million shares went through the market.

Not even an £84m visible surplus on the February trade figures could encourage buyers on Tuesday, though United Biscuits knocked confidence on Wednesday on the back of good results. Ever Ready dimmed on news that it is to challenge a Price Commission recommendation, while Cray Electrical, a brief suspension behind it, went ahead after a somewhat reluctant bid from Spey Investment.

The fighting in the Lebanon knocked confidence on Wednesday and the FT index went into retreat for the first time in nine trading sessions. Scottish whisky independent

Arthur Bell provided some cheer, however, turning in profits to the top end of market expectations.

On Thursday the City accepted money supply figures, which put annual growth at 14 1/2 per cent, without so much as a hiccup and not even disappointing figures from BP could prevent the FT index rising on the day.

Alison Mitchell

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

| Year's Year's high low | Company | Change | Comment |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 240p | Booker McConnell | 15p to 222p | In front of figures |
| 169p | Miln Marsters | 15p to 155p | Profits turnaround |
| 322p | Oil Exploration | 14p to 208p | Fears of dry well |
| | | | proved false |
| 210p | 85p Wm. J. | 20p to 192p | Irish stocks wanted |
| 200p | 22p Smurfit Hughes | 17p to 150p | Record figures |
| | | | |
| 122p | 77p AAH | 7p to 85p | Figures |
| 477p | 177p East Rand Prop | 85p to 295p | Chairman's warning |
| | | | on costs |
| 282p | 163p GEC | 9p to 247p | Brokers' profits |
| | | | revision |
| 285p | 137p C. E. Heath | 15p to 270p | Weak insurance |
| | | | brokers |
| 177p | 130p Utd Biscuits | 5p to 142p | Profit taking |

Excellent results from Gartmore High Income Trust

Here is the outstanding record of Gartmore High Income Trust as given in the Managers' Report published 15th March 1978.

Income up 11.3%

The income paid for the six months ending 31st January 1978 was £66.05p net per 100 units. This compares with £59.20p net for the corresponding period last year—a rise in net payments of 11.3%.

£48.35p to original unitholders

Original unitholders have received a total of £48.35p gross per £100 invested since the Fund began in March 1975. Estimated gross yield as at 16th March 1978 was 9.24%, p.a.

24.3% rise in capital value in 6 months

Over the 6 months concerned the offer price of units rose by 24.3%, compared with a rise in the Financial Times Industrial Ordinary Share Index of 1.6%. Since March 1975, the offer price of units has risen by 113.5%, compared to a rise of 65.7% in the Financial Times Index (as at 16th March 1978).

Two ways to invest

You can invest directly in Gartmore High Income Trust or through a single premium bond underwritten by Lloyds Life Assurance Limited.

Full details are available on request—contact Adrian Collins on 01-263 3531, or complete the coupon below.

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Round-up. Tax guide • New funds Rescue for Drummond

The Money Which?—Tax Saving Guide is recognized as providing the most lucid and helpful information on all aspects of personal taxation. The 1978 guide included in the March edition of Which? magazine is no exception.

It runs to 160 pages of explanation, specimen form filling, graphs and calculating tables. This time it includes new sections on tax and your home, fringe benefits and investment income. Throughout the guide the main tax changes made since the last edition are clearly marked.

Whether you are in the PAYE system or self-employed, and whatever your family circumstances, you will find it helpful—and almost indispensable if you are unaccustomed to filling in a tax return form or wish to check up on whether your taxman is assessing you correctly.

The guide provides a real service in simplifying some of the more complicated calculations. It has a detailed diagram, for instance, to help you work out whether you will save tax by having your spouse's income taxed separately.

There is a blow by blow account of how to fill in your annual return and the guide deciphers the mysteries of the Inland Revenue's tax coding system.

Which? (including Money Which?) is only available to Consumer Association members (£3.75 a quarter).

Relief is at hand for the 180 members and policyholders of Drummond Assurance which was ordered to stop taking on new business last week. Drummond is to be taken over by fellow friendly society Family Assurance.

It is expected that details will be circulated to policyholders shortly of the proposals to transfer Drummond's business and commitments to Family Assur-

ance. But no new policies will be issued by Drummond under its new management.

The Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies stopped the company from taking on new business because management costs were found to be too high and the standing of one of its associates has been called into question. Family Assurance, whose chairman is Mr Robert Morrison, of Planned Savings Life Assurance, has around 2,000 members and assets of £150,000.

Kleinwort Benson is launching a new unit trust specializing in investment trusts. The primary object is to provide a vehicle for the transfer of existing investment trust portfolios held by Kleinwort's private clients into a managed fund.

Although the timing of the launch looks a little odd in view of flagging interest in the investment trust market, it is clearly of advantage for share exchanges, upon which capital gains tax is payable, taking place when the level of share prices are lower. The starting yield on the new fund, which is open to the public, is estimated at a minimum of 5 per cent. The units are 50p each and a minimum subscription of £500 is required.

Of interest to overseas residents as well as in the United Kingdom is the launch this week of a new Far East Fund from Schlesinger. The fund will be managed by a Jersey subsidiary but operate as a unit trust dealing weekly at asset value.

Schlesinger favours Japanese shares because of the size of the quoted corporate sector there and the prospects for its economy. The offer price is 100p and the minimum investment is £500.

Investment trust valuations

| Trust | Valuation | Annual dividend | Net asset value after deducting other charges at market value | Investment currency premium (%) |
|--|-----------|-----------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Pence except where it is stated (see note) | | | | |
| VALUATION MONTHLY | | | | |
| 140.2 Alliance | 26.02.78 | T 1 | 259.3 | 267.5 |
| 78.9 Anglo-American | 26.02.78 | 3.8 | 117.1 | 117.1 |
| 115.8 British | 26.02.78 | 4.3 | 173.1 | 175.8 |
| 27.8 Capital & Nat | 26.02.78 | 4.0 | 147.6 | 150.5 |
| 9.5 Clearwater | 26.02.78 | 3.5 | 94.7 | 110.2 |
| 17.9 Crest | 26.02.78 | 3.5 | 90.2 | 96.2 |
| 14.8 Dundee and London | 26.02.78 | 2.3 | 76.9 | 77.5 |
| 12.1 Edinburgh | 26.02.78 | 6.7 | 105.3 | 108.6 |
| 20.2 First | 26.02.78 | 2.5 | 110.2 | 110.2 |
| 10.8 Grange | 26.02.78 | 2.1 | 81.3 | 85.4 |
| 13.3 Great Northern | 26.02.78 | 3.8 | 122.8 | 125.8 |
| 21.9 Guardian | 26.02.78 | 4.8 | 100.4 | 100.4 |
| 80.0 Invest Trust Corp | 26.02.78 | 5.95 | 231.0 | 242.8 |
| 73.9 Investors Gap | 26.02.78 | 1.55 | 158.2 | 163.8 |
| 20.2 J. & W. Glyn | 26.02.78 | 0.1 | 158.2 | 158.2 |
| 11.4 London & Holy | 26.02.78 | 3.2 | 134.6 | 138.3 |
| 22.2 London and Mid | 26.02.78 | 5.25 | 223.5 | 232.2 |
| 41.9 Lord & Provindal | 26.02.78 | 3.0 | 129.4 | 131.0 |
| 9.4 Mercantile | 26.02.78 | 1.25 | 147.0 | 152.1 |
| 23.9 North Atlantic | 26.02.78 | 4.50 | 172.70 | 172.70 |
| 106.3 Northern | 26.02.78 | 1.1 | 109.3 | 111.3 |
| 46.1 Northern American | 26.02.78 | 2.85 | 111.5 | 114.7 |
| 6.5 Save & Prosper | 26.02.78 | 2.58 | 155.2 | 155.2 |
| 107.1 Scottish | 26.02.78 | 11.6 | 111.6 | 113.8 |
| 54.2 Scottish Northern | 26.02.78 | 2.8 | 116.4 | 124.8 |
| 59.4 Scottish United | 26.02.78 | 2.9 | 149.2 | 153.9 |
| 46.0 Second Alliance | 26.02.78 | 8.65 | 228.0 | 240.0 |
| 3.6 Shires | 26.02.78 | 7.56 | 140.3 | 140.3 |
| 36.0 Stirling | 26.02.78 | 5.1 | 202.8 | 204.3 |
| 24.2 Telford | 26.02.78 | 0.25 | 121.3 | 121.3 |
| 65.7 United British | 26.02.78 | 3.975 | 146.2 | 147.8 |
| 18.1 United States & Gen | 26.02.78 | 5.84 | 220.8 | 24.3 |
| 78.0 United States Deb | 26.02.78 | 3.82 | 106.2 | 110.2 |
| Conv Lm Sth 1963 | 26.02.78 | 65.00 | 116.80 | 121.30 |
| Bullfinch & Co | | | | |
| 105.6 British Mortgage | 26.02.78 | 3.0 | 131.8 | 183.6 |
| 52.3 Monks | 26.02.78 | 1.4 | 58.1 | 58.9 |
| 13.1 Northern Investment | 26.02.78 | 4.8 | 238.8 | 240.7 |
| Barley Bank & Co Ltd | 03.03.78 | 1.265 | 99.1 | 82.8 |
| 36.1 Overbeck | 26.02.78 | 13.0 | 811.1 | 801.7 |
| 21.5 East of Scotland Investment Managers | 26.02.78 | 4.69 | 156.8 | 168.8 |
| Aberdeen | 26.02.78 | 1 | 178.8 | 178.8 |
| Edinburgh Finance | 26.02.78 | 1 | 52.8 | 56.0 |
| 55.8 American | 26.02.78 | 1 | 178.8 | 178.8 |
| 14.3 Crescent Japan | 26.02.78 | 1 | 178.8 | 178.8 |
| Elstra House | 26.02.78 | 4.3 | 129.2 | 130.0 |
| 58.2 Electra | 26.02.78 | 3.7 | 138.0 | 138.0 |
| 234.9 Globe | 26.02.78 | 0.50 | 113.10 | 5.4 |
| Conv Loan 1987/91 | 01.01.78 | 55.25 | 138.40 | 56.10 |
| 33.7 Temple Bar | 26.02.78 | 22.15 | 525.5 | 525.5 |
| Conv Loan 1985/90 | 26.02.78 | 58.00 | 176.60 | 53.40 |
| Conv Loan 1987/91 | 26.02.78 | 58.00 | 295.10 | 52.50 |
| F & G Group | 26.02.78 | 2.45 | 116.4 | 127.0 |
| 16.5 Alliance | 26.02.78 | 3.9 | 135.7 | 140.8 |
| 20.6 Cardinal | 26.02.78 | 0.5 | 109.00 | 111.4 |
| Conv Loan 1987/91 | 26.02.78 | 0.85 | 61.6 | 10.6 |
| 6.1 F & C Eurotrust | 26.02.78 | 3.77 | 168.4 | 175.7 |
| 17.9 Foreign & Colonial | 26.02.78 | 1 | 101.1 | 101.1 |
| 1.1 Gibraltar | 26.02.78 | 7.25 | 33.6 | 33.6 |
| James Fisher Investment Management Ltd | 26.02.78 | 7.38 | 102.1 | 102.1 |
| 1.8 Provincial Cities | 26.02.78 | 1.6 | 52.6 | 54.4 |
| Capital Investment Ltd | 26.02.78 | 0.7 | 226.8 | 226.8 |
| 6.1 Affund | 26.02.78 | 2.5 | 102.1 | 102.1 |
| Capitol 500 | 26.02.78 | 1.6 | 52.6 | 54.4 |
| 22.5 Anglo-Scottish | 26.02.78 | 1.6 | 52.6 | 54.4 |
| 28.5 English & Scottish | 26.02.78 | 1.6 | 52.6 | 54.4 |
| Group Investors | 26.02.78 | 0.7 | 226.8 | 226.8 |
| 4.5 London & Garmore | 26.02.78 | 0.5 | 76.9 | 76.9 |
| 10.0 London & Lamox | 26.02.78 | 0.4 | 85.9 | 85.9 |
| 20.0 London & Londond | 26.02.78 | 0.7 | 87.2 | 87.2 |
| 8.6 London & Strath | 26.02.78 | 1.373 | 48.5 | 50.2 |
| 10.6 Malvern Investment | 26.02.78 | 1.85 | 52.5 | 52.5 |
| 5.7 New York & Gart | 26.02.78 | 0.4 | 32.3 | 32.3 |
| Barnetts Investment (Stockland) Ltd | | | | |
| 64.5 Barnetts Investment | 26.02.78 | 3.45 | 169.2 | 172.7 |
| Group & Glyn | 26.02.78 | 2.4 | 116.8 | 120.9 |
| 74.7 Bolder & Southern | 26.02.78 | 7.5 | 358.4 | 363.5 |
| 32.1 Obeunore Corp | 26.02.78 | 3.2 | 103.1 | 105.5 |
| 130.1 Group Investors | 26.02.78 | 0.7 | 227.3 | 227.3 |
| 120.2 Govest European | 26.02.78 | 1.9 | 83.8 | 82.5 |
| 54.7 Lake View | 26.02.78 | 54.00 | 2747.50 | 2174.00 |
| Conv Loan 1973/96 | 26.02.78 | 2.05 | 113.0 | 113.0 |
| Stockholders | 26.02.78 | 0.975 | 72.1 | 72.1 |
| GT Management Ltd | 26.02.78 | 0.975 | 72.1 | 72.1 |
| 15.2 Berry Trust | 26.02.78 | 14.25 | 519.00 | 519.00 |
| 114.8 Conv Loan 1993 | 26.02.78 | 1.0 | 146.8 | 111.8 |
| 61.3 Conv Loan 1987 | 26.02.78 | 50.50 | 890.40 | 82.90 |
| 23.4 Northern Securities | 26.02.78 | 3.0 | 136.7 | 142.3 |
| 11.4 Northern Securities | 26.02.78 | 5.25 | 213.5 | 222.8 |
| 3.7 City of Oxford | 26.02.78 | 3.0 | 77.2 | 77.2 |
| 4.0 Reedwood | 26.02.78 | 3.25 | 113.8 | 112.1 |
| 2.1 Hedderston Add | 26.02.78 | 1 | 101.2 | 101.2 |
| 117.3 Witan | 26.02.78 | *2.1 | 104.2 | 108.3 |
| 118.7 Electric & General | 26.02.78 | 1.45 | 86.9 | 88.0 |
| 15.8 Greentree | 26.02.78 | 1.2 | 104.0 | 104.0 |
| 8.2 Greentree | 26.02.78 | 2.1 | 80.0 | 80.0 |
| 2.1 English National | 26.02.78 | 1.74 | 82.4 | 82.4 |

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

GEC tumble but BP restore the balance

After an initial markup failed to stir any interest, share prices drifted down close to their overnight levels at the end of the first week of the long Easter account.

With an encouraging set of retail prices making little impact on most interest centred on GEC which was sent tumbling by a broker's downward revision of profits. To counter this in the index BP had a strong reaction as dealers had second thoughts over Thursday's figures which in many quarters had been thought to be confusing.

An uncertain mood prevailed in the gilt-edged market where "loans" started steady but by midday had lost around half a point. After a minor rally, on small buying, the market had returned to its position by the close.

A "lumpy" selling order took the FT index down to 255.1, but with the selling order the shares rolled yesterday. Around 100,000 shares went through the market on Wednesday and Thursday when the shares dipped to 255. But last night they closed at 258. The seller was reported to be an institution.

At the shorter end, there was even less business and final losses were around three-sixteenths. Estimates of this week's "up" stock sales at both ends put the figure at around £500m.

The FT index closed 1.1 down at 255.1 leaving it just 1.0 off the 256. Many dealers were in a dispirited mood last night feeling that the market had "had it" until after Easter. Only then do they see the prospect of any action and even this might prove to be short-lived once the Budget is out of the way.

A visit to GEC by W. Green-

well research partner Mr Ernest Fenton, resulting in a downgrading of their profits forecast, knocked around £75m off the market value of the group.

Greenwell are now looking for £320m for the year in March 31, 1978, against a previous forecast of £340m and last year's £278.2m, and the broker's warning which triggered off the initial selling had a snowballing effect. One broker admitted that some 300,000 shares passed through his pitch alone.

Ironically, with shares now 14p lower at 247p, Greenwell now see them as a "buy". Elsewhere among the leaders, losses of up to 3p were recorded leaving ICI at 346p, Glaxo at 535p, Beecham at 617p, Dunlop at 80p and Unilever at 482p.

BATS continued to fall yesterday on further consideration of the chairman's profits warning and the ordinary shares closed 7p down at 298p while the 7p slipped 10p to 255p.

A more confident chairman's statement from Rank Organisation left the equity unmoved at 248p.

The reassessment of the BP figures made the share the most active counter of the day and had the shares 16p to the good at 762p. Shell recouped 30p to 510p, while the Phillips find gave a lift to IC Gas, 5p better at 235p. But Oil Exploration, spurred by the same news on Thursday, reacted 6p to 205p as profits were taken.

The main buyer which lifted Henry Wigfall the previous evening. Though Comer was not thought to be responsible for yesterday's rise, 385p, the suggestion of a rival bidder were. Blakey's Castings put on 4p to 52p to match the revised terms from Allied Insulators.

Active speculative stocks were Rush & Tompkins, up 3p to 103p, and Stewart Plastics where profit-takers lopped 7p off the price at 134p.

In rubbers, Consolidated Plantations, still stirred by talk of a change of domicile, rose 8p to 126p while Castelfield was another firm spot gaining 8p to 178p.

Two other spots supported by takeover hopes were Lee Refrigeration, up 5p to 70p, and Fluidrive which ended with a rise of 5p to 74p.

In shipping P & O survived an adverse mention to end unchanged at 97p but heavy lift specialist James Fisher found support rising 5p to 128p.

In buildings, favourable mentions helped Taylor Woodrow to touch 262p, a rise at one stage of 4p and Cassin 253p, a couple of pence better. Another building gaining ground was Tarmac, 3p better at 134p. On the mining pitch the chairman's warning of rising costs had Durban Deep slumping 65p to 250p and East Rand Property 65p to 255p. Consoli-

dated Gold Fields halted their recent fall by staying steady at 178p.

In foods Rowntree Mackintosh rose 385p, the suggestion of a rival bidder were. Blakey's Castings put on 4p to 52p to match the revised terms from Allied Insulators.

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In shipping P & O survived an adverse mention to end unchanged at 97p but heavy lift specialist James Fisher found support rising 5p to 128p.

Some think that Ransome Hoffman Pollard managed last year to emulate 1976-77's profits of £5m. But recession and a grim price war between the Japanese and the Suez Canal in earnings is thought to have meant that profits slipped to around £4.8m. The shares of 56p do not look as if they will move far for the present.

Reports of a strong order book did little for Wearwell at 19p, but the previous day's record figures enabled Waring & Gillow to gain a further penny to 57p. Sharply higher profits had W. Tzack 7p to the good at 45p.

After having GEC slipped back further but BP and other oil moved further ahead. A return to profits did nothing for Lister, down a penny to 42p, but late interest in furniture group Gomme Holdings lifted the shares up to 84p. The group is sometimes talked of as a takeover candidate.

Equity turnover on March 16 was £58.01m (14,466 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were BP, GEC, ICI, Shell, BAT, Bfd, Beecham, GKN, BAT Ind, EM, Grand Metropolitan, British Leyland, Courtaulds and Debenhams.

Latest results

| Company | Sales | Profit | Earnings | Div | Pay | Year's |
|---------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|-----------|
| ICI | 21,011,253 | 4,231,111 | 2,019,591 | 1.25(1.1) | 19.5 | (3.6) |
| Beecham | 15,571,081 | 3,331,081 | 1,665,540 | 1.10(1.0) | 15.4 | 1,614,471 |
| Glaxo | 15,571,081 | 3,331,081 | 1,665,540 | 1.10(1.0) | 15.4 | 1,614,471 |
| ICI | 21,011,253 | 4,231,111 | 2,019,591 | 1.25(1.1) | 19.5 | (3.6) |
| Beecham | 15,571,081 | 3,331,081 | 1,665,540 | 1.10(1.0) | 15.4 | 1,614,471 |
| Glaxo | 15,571,081 | 3,331,081 | 1,665,540 | 1.10(1.0) | 15.4 | 1,614,471 |

Hall Eng up 30pc with help from stock profits

By Tony May

Even without an improvement in the general level of economic activity in the United Kingdom, the board of Hall Engineering (Holdings) was confident at half time that the group's profits for the full year would be better than those for 1976. This is indeed the case with pre-tax profits for 1977 showing a healthy rise of 30 per cent to £4.4m, on turnover nearly 5 per cent higher at £69.3m.

Although not quite up to the record £4.8m profit made in 1974, the result is good considering the difficult conditions encountered by the construction and civil engineering companies in the course of the year.

After deducting £384,000 of extraordinary charges, against £38,000 in 1976, the group's net profit rose to £4.0m. Earnings a share are up from 14.9p to 18p, while the dividend is raised from 6.14p to 6.7p gross.

The pace of Eurocurrency borrowing by Scandinavian entities is picking up quickly. Yesterday a \$100m seven-year loan for Norsk Hydro was signed, carrying a margin over interbank rates of 1 per cent.

The funds, which are being provided by a syndicate of 21 banks, will be used by Norsk Hydro to finance the renewal of a \$200m syndicate.

At the same time, Hambros Bank announced that its \$100m floating rate loan for Norway had been well subscribed and had therefore been increased in size to \$125m.

Further, the Industrial Bank of Finland revealed it was raising a \$5m European Union of Account through an international issue. The 15-year loan is expected to carry interest at 7 per cent.

Norsk now in for \$100m Euroloan

The pace of Eurocurrency borrowing by Scandinavian entities is picking up quickly. Yesterday a \$100m seven-year loan for Norsk Hydro was signed, carrying a margin over interbank rates of 1 per cent.

The funds, which are being provided by a syndicate of 21 banks, will be used by Norsk Hydro to finance the renewal of a \$200m syndicate.

MY Dart now takes in cycles

By Our Financial Staff

For a comparatively small initial cost, M.Y. Dart, the sports equipment, packaging materials and pyrotechnics group, is adding a range of bicycles to its activities. For about £170,000 M.Y. is buying the assets but not the debts or cash of Dawes Cycles, an established business based at Tysley, Birmingham.

Dawes was one of the two largest bicycle makers in the country. It used to have turnover of about £2m but following a disastrous fire in 1975 its financial position deteriorated and with the downturn in sales in 1977, caused by the economic squeeze and disruption caused by the British Oxygen strike in October, the group took steps to find a fresh financial backer.

The group obtained a temporary employment subsidy but in December 1977 a record £2.3m. Turnover increased from £16.8m to £19.5m, pushing up margins from 11.5 to 12.7 per cent.

Earnings a share come out at 24p against 20p and the final dividend is 4.0p, making a total of 5.1p compared with 4.5p.

Church, at the quality end of the shoe market and a substantial exporter, made a small loss on foreign exchange compared with a profit of £180,000.

At half-time turnover was 31 per cent up at £29.2m with pre-tax profits rising 50 per cent to £930,000.

Mr Ian Church, chairman, had earlier hoped to see a reasonable rise, but not as big as the first six months. In the event, profits for the second half were up 130 per cent while those for the second half last time were more than trebled.

Church step towards peak

By Michael Clark

In spite of a fall in the rate of profits and sales growth in the second half, Church & Co, shoe group still managed to push up pre-tax profits for 1977 from £1.9m to a record £2.3m. Turnover increased from £16.8m to £19.5m, pushing up margins from 11.5 to 12.7 per cent.

Earnings a share come out at 24p against 20p and the final dividend is 4.0p, making a total of 5.1p compared with 4.5p.

Morgan Grenfell ends with leap of 92pc

By Our Financial Staff

After tax and transfers to the inner reserves of the banking subsidiaries, profits of Morgan Grenfell Holdings for 1977 leapt 92 per cent to £5.4m. This gives earnings a share of 43.5 compared with just 21.5 a year ago. The board says that having regard to the size of the inner reserves of the group, it has decided to disclose a greater proportion of its profits. This is the first year in which profits have been disclosed on the new basis so the profit figure for 1976 has been adjusted from £2.4m to £2.8m to give a fair comparison.

The group is a public hut

unlisted company and as its main subsidiary, Morgan Grenfell and some other subsidiaries are banking houses, the group is exempted from the full disclosure requirements of the Companies Act.

The doubling of earnings a share reflects the unusually favourable circumstances which obtained in financial markets during most of the year, as well as the underlying growth in many aspects of the group's business.

Shareholders are to collect a dividend of 5.23p compared with 4.68p for 1976-77 after adjustment for the one-for-four scrip issue made in May.

Church, at the quality end of the shoe market and a substantial exporter, made a small loss on foreign exchange compared with a profit of £180,000.

At half-time turnover was 31 per cent up at £29.2m with pre-tax profits rising 50 per cent to £930,000.

Silver dips 15 cents

New York, March 17.—The New York stock market got some good news today and closed higher. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which had been under pressure, closed up 5.89 to 788.71.

Some 995 issues advanced and 435 declined. Trading was active, with total volume 24,470,000.

Wall Street

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On the face of it CH Industrials, the motor accessories to paint group, has done itself a good turn by buying S. A. Richardson, a company in timber, paper and pulp.

Richardson, a company in timber, paper and pulp, has been bought by CH Industrials for £1,413,630 shares, or £494,770.

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Halifax

e index

old shoulder for Europe?

the poor investment trust

who took the EEC to

in 1972 and launched a

of Eurofunds. As far as

it is concerned the EEC

was the biggest finan-

cial of the decade.

European research

has been closed

back to one man and

And the points on in

purposes of the Continent

as much a mystery in

storage United Kingdom

as they ever were.

half dozen or so invest-

ments launched with such

opportunity in 1972 remain

a reminder of

the investment

by the unspectacular

the European

markets, like our own—

to be seen from the

discounts are still

an average—with the

of Scottish and Con-

where the board has

that it intends to

Scottish European, in fact,

last autumn via a mer-

another Rothschild.

New Court International.

Investment trusts

right in an attempt to

long suffering share-

holders of whom bought

a chance to see at

the value for their

and Continental is

doing something

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of further boardroom

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MP sets out the case for having annual family policy review

IF SELLS OUT **or having any**

family policy

no years of the social con-
for single and married old
sioners, disposable income
en by 4 and 5 per cent but
end of 1975, the disposable

of families with two child-
ren fallen by 6 per cent and
fallen by 10 per cent with
four children by 15 per
cent. It had happened with rela-
tively little fanfare that the
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Mr. (Mr. Healey) sometimes
used to give to the public was
effective way of combating
what he was wrong. The way
was to let it all chip away at
help to the child, not to
there was a marriage
and whether there were
dependent children in the
old.
only be ought to raise the
over national insurance rate.
House talked every day
the need for investment in
the country. The Government
they could make was in the
generation of children who
and the children who they re-
ceive.
Carter-Jones (Eccles),
towards the general
the incidence

4,000 babies died un-
narily and 10,000 were born
disabilities they need not
this was costly in suffer-
ing financial terms.

There were horrific differences in the standard of care of expectant mothers in different areas.

Bert Rhodes James (Cambridge) said there was a tragic story in the law which prevented the right of access of parents to their grandchild, particularly in cases where there was evidence of being ill-treated or abused.

David Weitzman (Hackney, London and Stoke Newington, Lab) said that the law was not

whether the law had not
too far. The many benefits
it had perhaps led to
race.

William Hamilton (Central
lab) said the family was
to define. Did communes
within Mr Bottomley's
on? The Government had
ide which type of family
did what priorities to treat-
any, in taxation, housing,
or other matters.
were on the road to halt-
decline in family support
ed, not only in

...but the cost of doing
...could not be underestimated.
...oda Chalker (Wallasey, C)
...opposition spokesman of
...business and the state said

everything. The bringing
children, working to meet.

elderly parents in later
are the right sort of res-
sities they should be pre-

to build into family policy. The support "was the first time that the government was willing to stay a secure unit. The child benefit scheme was but alone would not have convinced the conservatives the system."

There were now more than bread winners with cash in the bank. "The women were still at work—than could rest on the dote."

More action could be taken. "The government was pressing. By a shift of emphasis it would be possible to argue that preventive care ideas put forward in the past there should be an family policy review to the government. The House was good. In addition

all organizations repre-
sent the family with the
sect.

Mr Stoddart (Swindon, Lab)
any institutions by their
and example encouraged

the family. The advertisement promoted materialism within society. The violence seen might after television, often in programs imported particularly at great area of private use, the United States.

ing and unreservedly con-
all methods of pursuing
ends which posed the

[illegible]

context of the breakdown
y life there were elemen
ty which ought to kno

Kidnapping condemned

great not only the after-
for

University News Nobel Sc. Professor F. of th.
Director of Maison des S.
l'Homme, Paris, and prof. playe

Sc. MA. DLitt (Hon)
Professor of economic history

[illegible]

مكتبة ابن بطوطة

§. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

The Times Share indices for 17.01.78 have the same date as the original base date June 1959.

| | Index Last | Div. Yield | Earnings per Share | No. of Shares | Previous Year |
|---|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| The Times Industrial Share Index | 194.71 | 8.80 | 15.75 | 194.87 | |
| Large Industrial | 194.71 | 8.80 | 12.50 | 194.74 | |
| Small Industrial | 194.63 | 7.50 | 14.18 | 194.74 | |
| Consumer Goods | 200.70 | 7.50 | 58.50 | 200.70 | |
| Financial | 218.14 | 7.15 | 12.54 | 200.50 | |
| Silver Shares | 126.41 | 6.38 | 8.18 | 127.09 | |
| Large Industrial | | | | | |
| Large Industrial | 214.96 | 5.85 | — | 219.13 | |
| Large Industrial | | | | | |
| Financial | 200.78 | 8.84 | — | 200.73 | |
| Consumer Goods | 216.18 | 5.62 | 14.06 | 217.78 | |
| Gold Mining | | | | | |
| Gold Mining | 225.57 | 8.76 | 17.50 | 225.78 | |
| Industrial | | | | | |
| Industrial | 104.90 | 0.58 | — | 94.08 | |
| Industrial | | | | | |
| Preference Stocks | 59.85 | 11.87 | — | 60.10 | |
| 2½% War Loan | 36.75 | 6.74 | — | 36.40 | |

A record of the Times Industrial Share Indices is given below—

| | High | Low |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| All-time | 222.96 (14.02.77) | 80.18 (12.12.74) |
| 1970-1971 | 204.93 (19.05.71) | 195.63 (26.03.71) |
| 1971-1972 | 206.16 (19.05.72) | 197.77 (27.07.72) |
| 1972-1973 | 186.09 (19.05.73) | 112.83 (27.07.73) |
| 1973-1974 | 176.16 (19.05.74) | 145.00 (26.03.74) |
| 1974-1975 | 176.16 (19.05.75) | 145.00 (26.03.75) |
| 1975-1976 | 176.16 (19.05.76) | 145.00 (26.03.76) |
| 1976-1977 | 176.16 (19.05.77) | 145.00 (26.03.77) |

* Fiat Interest, 12.00.77.

SPORT

Rugby Union

Lions 1980 tour to S Africa is still on

By Peter West

Rugby Correspondent

France at last are to become members of the International Rugby Football Board along with England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, New Zealand, South Africa and Australia. This was one welcome and positive item to emerge yesterday from the board's annual meeting in London. Another one was that British Isles tours abroad will be limited in future to a maximum of 18 matches.

It was also disclosed that a British Isles tour to South Africa remains on the programme for 1980, but will be a full Springbok tour of three islands in 1984-85. Joe Lord (Australia) confirmed that his country's tour to South Africa next year had been postponed "for political reasons".

Kenneth Harris (Wales), played a lead role in the question of possible repercussions on the 1980 Olympic Games if the British Isles made a rugby tour of South Africa in that year. "We have a framework, rather than a programme, until the year 2002," he said, "but we are not necessarily committed to it. There are matters from the countries concerned and the International Board is really the clearing house for them."

Excluding the years 1932 to 1939, when 18 members dropped their fixtures against them, France have been playing international rugby since 1906. Their status at the highest level has increased so significantly since the war that it has become a matter of a mystery why an invitation to join the game's supreme governing body has been so long delayed.

When asked whether the presence of France might create any difficulties in relation to the board's rules, Mr. Harris, the chairman, Bob Stewart, who captained the All-Blacks here in 1953-54, said that stories continued to appear about the French attitude to France, but "there was no hard copy evidence to substantiate them".

Danle Crovan, of South Africa, has been a member of the board for 25 years, stated categorically after the meeting that he had no intention of leaving the country no longer existed, but that any thing positive they sought to do was not accepted by the new media environment.

Asked, "Is South Africa the one country that others always want to pick on? The danger is that this hostile attitude to South Africa will have an effect on South Africa and encourage it to do it alone."

He added that as from March 31, black and coloured rugby organizations would become full members of the SA board. "These other unions in our country have been waiting for years to share the opportunities, now they're in with us, they can't share anything, so we have a situation where the opposite of what we intended has come about."

In some ways these two sides would bring the greatest satisfaction to their supporters, and certainly to rugby, if they spurned caution this afternoon and played a fluent, open game. They are equipped to do so if inhibitions could be abandoned. It is, I believe, a fair generalization that too many of Twickenham's major occasions in recent years have been dull to watch. There is reason to hope, however, that this international will prove more entertaining than some.

Two robustness sets of forwards are involved and will settle the outcome: England, with proven efficiency in the tight and mobility in their drives in the loose; Ireland, with the fire and get which has been their trademark since coach, Noel Murphy, whose own game used to embody these virtues so well. England's backs have still not found handling success or the ignition for flair and imaginative play but there have been hints that the key to unlock these things is at least being sought.

Ireland have a confident and predominantly young back division, and a strong, experienced front row. Ireland has a strong, experienced front row. Ireland has a strong, experienced front row.

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France look to Gallion and the fleet

By Peter West

The climax to the international rugby championship could not have been better ordained. France and Wales meet in Cardiff this afternoon and both countries have won three hard games. Wales have set one record with a triple crown for the third successive year and they now stand poised for another, an eighth grand slam. The champions, France, seek a victory that would make them the first country since England, back in the early 1920s, to achieve the grand slam two seasons in a row.

Wales, moreover, are hoping to achieve the feat, as France managed to do last season with only 15 players, but whether Gerald Davies will have to withdraw from the right wing position we cannot know until this morning. He is said, officially, to have a grumbling hamstring, but may have tweaked some other muscle. Gareth Evans who replaced him in Paris last year, is standing by for his first full international for Wales.

Even if the great man cannot play, and there is no one who can fill his electrifying boots—the support of their own fervent crowd must be worth a point or two. Wales' side has such character, such determination and such staying power that it might be unwise to bet against them. Their chances, and history suggests that on occasions such as this the advantage usually lies with the home team.

France have not won in Cardiff since 1965, the first of their grand slam years, although they scored two tries in the 1976-77 season. In 1976-77, in 1976, yet I have a hunch that even though their selectors have declined to recall Rome to kick their goals, France still may do the trick today. This may be dangerous thinking because there has been a hint this season of some decline in power and mobility of the French front five, now with Haget at lock instead of Imbernon.

It cannot be denied, moreover, that the Welsh scrum, which looked distinctly rocky against Scotland last March, has come up trumps again this year. Graham Price has been a potent force on the right-hand side and the recall of Faulkner, to make the front row all Pontypool again, has seemed to be a stroke of genius. Old soldiers simply fade away.

Six of the Welsh forwards (the others were Clive Burgess on a flank and Glyn Shaw at loosehead prop) played in Paris a season ago and were given a thoroughly uncomfortable passage at close quarters. If their opponents can approach that sort of form, Wales should be in a strong position. It is why the front five of France look to hold the key now.

Jerome Gallion, the French scrum half, and Tony Ward, the scrum half, have been the main discoveries of the championship. Wales must be praying that the young Frenchman, who has scored in every one of his three internationals, does not have a platform behind which he

can exploit his eye for an opening and exceptional speed. The most talented of scrum halves, even Gareth Edwards, can be made to look human behind a struggling pack. Wales will hope, too, that Wales' stand-off, will do little to make a decisive mark, now somewhat overdue.

However, if these young half-backs get the springboard they need, there is no denying that France have the edge to pace in some key areas. One of these is off a flank, where Rites has been in magnificent form lately. Another is in the centre, where Berrange and Belcastan add to their fitness of foot a capacity for forthright tackling not often matched by the French midfield in the past.

With respect to a great player, John P. R. Williams, France have an advantage in speed at fullback. That is not to suggest in any way that J. P. R.'s day is done or that he may not be the sounder player overall. It is just to underline the fact that Aguirre is decidedly quick. And, if Davies cannot play, Wales would seem to be outplayed on the wing.

Wales certainly will have laid their plans to cope with Gallion and they will be interested, no doubt, to put the French half-backs to a rather more searching examination than they have in the past two seasons. The referee, Alan Welsby, of England, will have an especially vital role to play. He is not likely to err for want of strength or firmness.

Ward's thesis in his fourth and final year at Thomond College, Limerick, a physical education and teachers' training establishment, traces football origins and development, and the influence of the future in Ireland. His hobby remains the collecting of rare football programmes, particularly early English ones. It is, apparently, a myth that he is a football player turned rugby man. Ward began rugby at seven and only took up football at 14, though he played for the school and the club's under-15s and under-18s.

He worked for a year as an insurance agent in Dublin and then, in 1974, he came to Ireland as a teacher with Shamrock Rovers, continuing to make a 240-mile round trip after enrolling at Thomond College in 1975. He was a rapid climb to prominence started in February 1975 by chance. A lecturer at Thomond, knowing his aptitude for most games, persuaded him to help the Garryowen rugby club when they were hit by injuries. Ward had one second team game and was immediately promoted to the first XV. Three games later he won a Munster senior cup medal, with a 100% record.

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Gallion (left) and Martin: their distribution from scrumage and linocut respectively may decide the destiny of the championship in Cardiff this afternoon.

Today's teams at Cardiff

| Wales | | | France | | |
|-------------------|----|--------------|-------------------|----|--------------|
| J. P. R. Williams | 15 | Full back | J. M. Aguirre | 15 | Full back |
| T. R. Davies | 14 | Right wing | D. C. Belcastan | 14 | Right wing |
| R. W. Gravel | 13 | Right centre | R. Berrange | 13 | Right centre |
| S. P. Penwick | 12 | Left centre | C. Belcastan | 12 | Left centre |
| G. O. Edwards | 11 | Left wing | G. Novak | 11 | Left wing |
| A. G. Faulkner | 10 | Stand-off | J. Gallion | 10 | Stand-off |
| R. W. Windsor | 9 | Scrum half | A. P. R. Williams | 9 | Scrum half |
| C. P. R. Williams | 8 | Prop | A. P. R. Williams | 8 | Prop |
| A. J. Martin | 7 | Prop | R. Berrange | 7 | Prop |
| G. A. D. Wrool | 6 | Lock | F. Haget | 6 | Lock |
| J. P. R. Williams | 5 | Lock | A. P. R. Williams | 5 | Lock |
| D. J. Seidler | 4 | Flanker | J. P. R. Williams | 4 | Flanker |
| T. J. Connor | 3 | No 8 | J. P. R. Williams | 3 | No 8 |
| A. J. Martin | 2 | Flanker | J. P. R. Williams | 2 | Flanker |
| A. J. Martin | 1 | Flanker | J. P. R. Williams | 1 | Flanker |

Referee: A. Welsby (England)

Sanders is re-elected

By Peter West

Sandy Sanders, England's Chairman of Selectors for the past two seasons, has been re-elected for a further year, and will be in charge of the team which will compete in the 1979-80 season. The selectors' meeting, which took place at Twickenham on Friday, also elected Michael Weston as vice-chairman.

The RFU announced details of the short tour to be made by the England team to Argentina next autumn, with six games in England, one in Wales and one in Ireland. The itinerary will be as follows:

SEPTEMBER 27: Southern Counties (10:00); 30: Northern Division (10:00); 31: Northern Division (10:00); 1: Northern Division (10:00); 2: Northern Division (10:00); 3: Northern Division (10:00); 4: Northern Division (10:00); 5: Northern Division (10:00); 6: Northern Division (10:00); 7: Northern Division (10:00); 8: Northern Division (10:00); 9: Northern Division (10:00); 10: Northern Division (10:00); 11: Northern Division (10:00); 12: Northern Division (10:00); 13: Northern Division (10:00); 14: Northern Division (10:00); 15: Northern Division (10:00); 16: Northern Division (10:00); 17: Northern Division (10:00); 18: Northern Division (10:00); 19: Northern Division (10:00); 20: Northern Division (10:00); 21: Northern Division (10:00); 22: Northern Division (10:00); 23: Northern Division (10:00); 24: Northern Division (10:00); 25: Northern Division (10:00); 26: Northern Division (10:00); 27: Northern Division (10:00); 28: Northern Division (10:00); 29: Northern Division (10:00); 30: Northern Division (10:00); 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Versatile Mark Henry should outstay rivals

Badminton

Revenge and place in final for Mrs Gilks

6 championship, Miss Statt defeated by a 3-2 score in the 1974 and 1975 semi-final rounds. In 1976, she meets Scott in their apparent first round. Miss Statt's previous experience on the ice is on her mind. Wendy Clark, the 1974 champion, sustains a broken leg in the 1974-75 season. Clark's loss is one of several factors cited by Canadians as reasons for their defeat at Whetnall. Clark's loss was far from the only one. Several crucial stages in a match of hard hitting rallies.

There was a disappointing performance and to English hopes of winning the women's doubles through Nora Perry (Essex) and Anne Statt (Hampshire) were dashed after their numerous successes this winter. Mrs Statt has had treatment for a week on torn fibres in her leg and was advised not to play.

The England pair reached the third round but with Miss Statt's own difficulties they were unable to progress. In the Canadians, Claire Backhouse and Jane Youngberg, Mrs Statt now faces the task of getting herself back into the game. The open zone final in Copenhagen on March 30.

March 30.
During the day the Badminton players' Association (BPA)

point in the first game; dropping the second almost casually; and

then romping through the third round in a blitzkrieg that was both surprising and shocking. She took the closing eight points on the trot. Miss Yuli began unsteadily, finding it hard to find a proper length and making an unusual number of mistakes at the net. Overall, perhaps, it was not a classic, with tension and too many untidy points both frequently present.

The men's final is a repetition of the all Indonesian 1976 affair with Rudy Hartono meeting Liem Swie King. Hartono will presumably win what will be his ninth

England held together by excellent team spirit

From Sydney Friskin
Buenos Aires, March 17

Having flown 10,000 miles expecting to see some sunshine I arrived here today in torrential rain for the cup tournament. The start has been postponed from tomorrow to Sunday because of

A draw against Australia could keep England's hopes alive and assuming they beat Ondis, whose defense is the weakest I have seen for several years, there is still another giant to be slain—West Germany, who in a practice match three days ago defeated a strong

the heavy rain during the last few days. The struggle for a place in the semifinal round begins on Tuesday with a match against Australia after which they are committed to five more matches in the space of eight days. A similar test confronts

From each of two pools of seven teams, two will qualify and a study of these suggests that England have the better draw with West Germany, Australia and Ireland presiding the main obstacles, Ireland's strongest opponents, while first match is on Sunday against Argentina.

England have been training hard for about 18 months and are held together by an excellent team spirit under the new manager, Tony Eldon. The accent has been

on fitness but in this market they may have been pushed a little too far. After waiting on air with a 100 percent victory over the world Cup holders at Lord's last week, they came down to earth again the following day. Australia, in heating them 5-2, gave them an object lesson in teamwork. The forward line well hacked up by inventive half backs. They could have their best match against The Netherlands whose great striking power is provided mainly by lefties from short corners. Spain, the European champions, have almost a new side.

So, Ireland know the magnitude of their task. Their spirits are high; they are well prepared and this is probably their best side yet. They have the moving, their short corner drill, the mechanics of which are initiated by Raphael and developed by Donlop and Shugmon, the ultimate striker.

organized training weekends, the only semblance of one being the workout at Regent's Park on the eve of the international festival at Lord's.

Argentina, the host side, can destroy the rhythm of any side in.

EXTRACTS: Tomorrow: Balmain v India, Sunday: Canada v West Glamorgan, Malaysia v Spain; Argentina v Ireland.

... ..

Leicestershire fail to make

Leicestershire fail to make most of penalty corners

the United States and from unbeaten ground at Wodson. Hampshire's Cricket Ground, which was in splendid condition, and the concentration of the players was so great that what snow there was made little difference. Leicestershire's Denise Parker hit a goal post, and the United

ates got the ball in the net
once, but the goal was disallowed
because the ball was kicked
have never seen Leicestershire
the Middlesex and champions
play so carefully (news of the
opportunism of the United States
team had got around). However,
Leicestershire were still eager to

go to goals. Both side halves, Wesley Hurley and Jeanie Freeman, went through several times but had not quite sufficient skill to score.

The United States were again spectacular in their interception. They often left Leicestershire

LEICESTERSHIRE: G. Parrie, J. Hurley, R. Holmes, J. Freeman, C. Gurnley, D. Gordon, P. Readman, H. Parker, M. Cornley.

UNITED STATES: G. Cheeseman, A. Anders, A. Miller, K. Shelton, N. Stevens, B. Dunn, G. Dray, G. J. Stevens, S. Marsland, J. J. Morris.

Latest European snow reports

| Flaine | 130 | 350 | Fine Good | Fine Powder Good | Fine Snow | 0 |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----|
| Cold wind, many runs closed | | | | | | |
| Tests 2000 | 200 | 350 | Good | Powder Good | — | 130 |
| Excellent skiing conditions | | | | | | |
| Kitzbühel | 15 | 70 | Good | Powder Poor | Cloud | 130 |
| New snow on upper slopes | | | | | | |
| Mürren | 50 | 150 | Good | Varied Fair | Cloud | 0 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|------|--------|------|-------|-----|
| St. Morris | 150 | Good | Varied | Good | Cloud | 1.5 |
| New snow on good base | | | | | | |
| Sauze d'Onix | 100 220 | Good | Varied | Good | Fine | 4 |
| New snow on hard base | | | | | | |
| Val d'Isère | 185 390 | Good | Varied | Good | Fine | 2 |
| Some excellent powder snow | | | | | | |
| Verbier | 50 220 | Good | Powder | Good | Fine | 2 |
| Ideal sking conditions | | | | | | |

Wengen 50 125 Good Varied Fair Fine 2
 Good powder were sheltered
 In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club
 of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes.
 Following reports have been received from other sources :
 Depth State of Super Molina 15' 50 Good Sun -4
 (cm) of Weather NORWAY
 140 165 Good - 120

[illegible]

(continued on page 25)

Exhibit C

April is a wonderful month at The Marine

wonderful, relaxing holidays even without the summer sun. Luxury hotel, night by the water & a side of delicious food. phone, color TV in every room. air, sail, solarium, seafood restaurant and best of all, the price. \$299.99. Call 454-185 or write to J. Andrews, The Marine, Salcombe, 8 Devon.

The Marine

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ming pool and tennis courts.
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ing the sea. Open swim-
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area, games room.

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fect pearse, superb food and
teller jammagee in one of
star and Grand Food Roseite.
churs from March when
dishes is treated with daffodils,
churs from:

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Trasero, Isles of Scilly
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Prizes, Professional tuition and
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and painted with
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N. FARM, Sennen, Cornwall. Large, self-contained holiday home, newly completed, granite built, accommodation up to 10 persons. Inland, 10 miles from sea. Write Mrs G. Fisher, 174 Cinder- lane, Ecclefield, Sheffield, S11 4L. Tel.: Ecclefield 5450.

WALL, holiday flat, scrommo- na, S. fully furnished including or- gan, bath, electric heating, central position, 1 mile beach. Tel. 470. N.W. Bridge House, Llanwnda, near Tunnage, Tel. 4622.

A LUXURY HOLIDAY IN Cornwall, S.E. flats including 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 10 ft. x 60 ft. stamp for brochure, H. J. Jones, 10, The Quadrant, Plymouth. Phone Peurya 75075 or 751.

WALL, Mr. PASTOW, 600 ft. of sea, sandy rock pools, built in 1930, converted farmhouse and

[illegible][illegible]

DEVON - Modern bungalow equipped. Bleeps 6. Available June. Price \$27,900.

COASTAL - S. Cornwall. Very variable, 4-bedrooms cottage with beech. Available 15th June. -T.C. Mullen

CORNWALL, Helford River, 10 miles from Cornwall. 10 acres, with apple hawking. 16th April. May, September and October. Tel. Helston 225.

DEVON - Lishing village, charming detached cottage. Children and adults all welcome. 10th, 200 yards to beach. Sleeps 12. From £45 - 1st and 2nd floors.

DEVON - Self-catering detached children's, dogs permitted. Sandwell Manor. 98-560.

DEVON - Water-front cottage. A gem. 600 sq. ft. fully furnished. 4 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. All dates. 107,765. 88-550.

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15 July-5 August, 2-10 Sep-
r. October. £10-£100
-Fittleworth 383.

